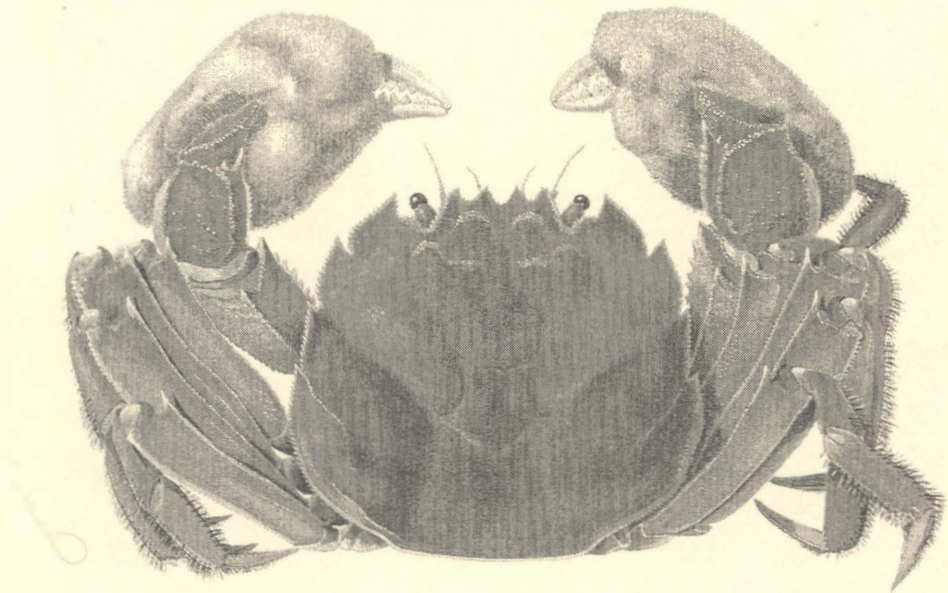


# Animals & Men

The Journal of the Centre for Fortean Zoology



## The Chinese Invasion of Britain - Mitten Crabs in the Thames

More feathered Dinosaurs; The mystery  
animals of Germany; The Barbary Lion;  
New Zealand Extinctions and much more...

Issue 12

£2.00

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# The Great Days of Zoology

Dear Friends,

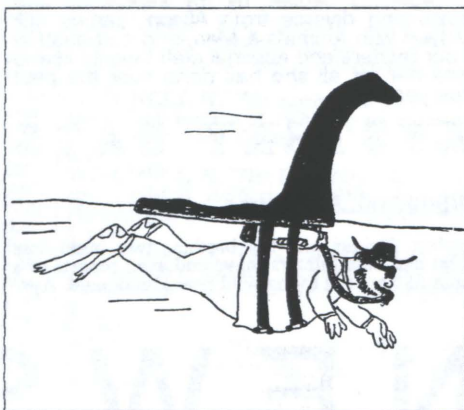
Welcome to a new issue. We are now in our fourth year, and are - we hope at least - getting bigger and better all the time. There have been an awful lot of what we in the wilder fringes of the biological sciences refer to as 'Cock Ups' in the last few months, and we can only apologise for them. Although every current subscriber was sent a copy of issue 11 it seems that a whole batch became lost in the post and singularly failed to arrive. If you did not receive issue 11, then please let me know and you will have one posted to you within the next few weeks. The production of The 1997 Yearbook, my book *'The Owlman and Others'*, and the first issue of our 'sister' magazine *'The Goblin Universe'* has also been fraught with problems.

As you all know 1996 was a very difficult year for me. The events of the final few weeks, after the publication of *Animals & Men* #11 were on a par with those of the rest of the year. We found a new, and very cheap printer who claimed to be able to print directly from disk. The masters for the three publications listed above were delivered to them in late November. Like fools we didn't keep back-up copies because he managed to erase the disks and we had to start (almost) from scratch.

*The Goblin Universe* is available NOW. Subscribers should have received theirs a week or so ago. *'The Owlman and Others'* will - or at least SHOULD - be ready by the time that you receive this magazine and the 1997 Yearbook will be with you very soon. I can only apologise to you all for the delay.

We have now got a new printer (*Devon Design and Print* at the *Dewon County Council*), and so far their work has been excellent. We decided to publish this issue before completing the Yearbook because we have had personal experience of too many organisations who have allowed their publishing schedule to go seriously awry and have ended up producing nothing for years. We were determined not to go down this path, and, indeed are reasonably convinced that we shall be back on schedule within the next month or so. As a result of the delay, however, the WWW site, and the computerised database have also been held up. We apologise to those of you who have written for lists of available data. Again, this service will be available as soon as possible.

Our publishing schedule for 1997 is, again, a heavy one. We plan to put out *'The Mystery Animals of Hong Kong'* (by Richard Muirhead and myself) in the summer, and a reprint of *'The Cantrip Codex'* by Tony 'Doc' Shields (hopefully) in time for the UNCONVENTION in April. Graham and I are also planning a book called *'Weird about the West'* (to tie in with our fortnightly BBC Radio series), and there will of course be a 1998 Yearbook as well as four issues of this magazine and a similar number of *The Goblin Universe*. Thanks for your ongoing support. If it wasn't for you, we would not be able to do what we do - and I think that would be a pity!



... Are not done





**EDITOR'S NOTE:** I would like to welcome Graham to the post of full time Newsfile Editor. He replaces Jan Williams who essentially co-founded this magazine with me three years ago, and without whom we would not exist - at least not in our present form. She wanted to step down as Newsfile Editor last summer, but she very kindly hung on until now because of the problems caused by my separation and forthcoming divorce from Alison. Jan is still involved with Animals & Men, and on behalf of all our readers and editorial staff I would like to thank her for all she has done over the past three years.

(south west Scotland). They and other witnesses have described sightings - and attacks on cars - by an animal the size of a Labrador dog, but more agile. "It moved like a cat," Stephen said. "I think we'll start taking a camera." Kilmarnock Standard 18-10-96

Scottish reports of big cats are being collated by Mark Fraser, editor of "Haunted Scotland" - 01563 539509.

### Hampshire

Police in Totton (near Southampton) are confident the "Beast of Basingstoke" has not moved south. A "black panther-like creature" seen near a local school was more likely to be a Labrador, they said. Southampton Daily Echo 13-5-96.

### Dundonald, Ayrshire

Stephen Steiner and his brother, two night-time rabbit and hare hunters, have endorsed reports of a puma-like animal living wild near Dundonald, Ayr

Gavin Wright reported a jet-black creature with a "curled tail" seen in his headlights, east of Southampton Daily Echo 30-5-96.

# NEWSFILE

EDITED AND COMPILED BY GRAHAM INGLIS



A black creature with a grey head and green eyes glinting in the moonlight was reported by motorist Gareth Savage to be near Southampton. "Its tail kind of went down and then swooped upwards," he said. Southampton Daily Echo 18-7-96.



## Maastricht, Netherlands

Dutch police mounted a hunt for a puma in the area around Maastricht, and the public were warned to avoid a local forest, after the animal was videotaped by a witness. Westfalenpost 18-10-96

## Normandy, France

An 'escaped lioness' was hunted by 75 police and park rangers after being spotted by several witnesses near Dieppe. No circus is missing a lion. Westfalenpost 7-8-96

## Pyrenees, France

French police looked for a "black animal with a long tail" in the Pyrenees Mountains after sightings by 3 witnesses. Kolner Express 23-8-96.

Some newspapers recently have been carrying adverts for "soothing music for your cat". It claims the £10 tape can induce "visions of mice", for instance. Perhaps the Fortean world is ready for the Alien Big Cat control tape - at a Big price of £100, of course.

# VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE...

## TWO-HEADED SNAKE

A two-headed heald snake found in South Africa was blamed by the superstitious for the then-ecent

floods that killed more than 100 people in the region. Columbus Dispatch via COUDI.

## BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN

(don't they Special Agent Askew?)

### Blonde hedgehogs...

Blonde hedgehogs have been reported in several parts of Somerset, England. Excessive uv radiation (due to ozone depletion) or changing global weather patterns have been suggested as causes. Western Daily Press 5-6-96

### Blonde blackbird

A blackbird rejected from its nest for being yellowy-orange is living in a wildlife sanctuary in north Devon. Chris Mead, of the British Trust for Ornithology, said, "In 30 years I have never heard of one... it is certainly a bird in a million." Sanctuary staff believe the bird is male but are not sure. Daily Mail 14-8-96

EDITORIAL NOTE: Albino and partially albino blackbirds are relatively well known. I have even seen a beautiful mutation, described by the man who bred it as a Chinchilla Mosaic. This bird was speckled like a Mistle Thrush and had most peculiar striped patterns on its underbelly. This bird, however, is unique in my experience and appears to be a lutino - the mutation which has recently produced some of the most striking cage birds presently on sale - the yellow African Ring-necked Parakeets.

## NEW AND REDISCOVERED...

### Cuban mini-frog

A frog the size of a fingernail has been discovered on a remote mountainside in Cuba. At an average length of 10 mm it is just 1 mm larger than the smallest tetrapod in the world, a frog found in Brazil in 1971. New York Times 3-12-96.

### Fair-skinned jungle tribe

A previously-unknown tribe of light-skinned people has been discovered in a remote jungle region of the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, by geologists from an American mining company. The origin of the 90-strong group of men, women and children is unknown but one theory holds that they may be descendents of Japanese soldiers. The Japanese

invaded and held the area during World War 2. Westfalenpost 17-8-96.

## WASPS

In Tanzania Africa, entomologist George McGavin found what is possibly the tiniest winged insect in the world - a member of the wasp family about the size of this full stop. McGavin suspended sheets under the branches of an acacia tree, sprayed the area with an insecticide, and then examined his catch. Unfortunately, he then lost it - among the 11,500 other specimens. Daily Mail 3-8-96.

Rather more combative is *Dinocampus coccinellae*, a small parasitic wasp spreading fast in Scotland, that reproduces without mating and lays its eggs in the body of the common seven-spotted ladybird. When the grub is fully fed, it severs the main nerves to the ladybird's legs, immobilising it. Scientists have warned of a potential threat to crops, as the ladybird, important in pest-control, could be wiped out in Scotland.

The less-common two-spotted ladybird is naturally immune to such attacks, however, and some scientists are contemplating a genetic engineering intervention, on behalf of the threatened seven-spotted.

## New bird: graveteiro

A warbler sized bird, the pink-legged graveteiro ("twig gatherer" in Portuguese) - *Acrobatornis fonseci* - that occupies the Brazilian forest canopy has been described as "the most exciting new species of bird discovered in decades." It occurs principally over coffee plantations, however, and, following the crash of cocoa prices in the late 1980's and the spread of a destructive fungus (witch's broom), many plantation owners have been cutting down their old trees and selling the timber to raise cash. New York Times 19-11-96.

## I'm not a Pheasant plucker...

A species of pheasant, long thought extinct, has been rediscovered in central Vietnam. The last known capture of an Edward's pheasant - *Lophura edwardii* - was in 1928. Three expeditions between 1988 and 1994 searched for, and failed to find, this dark blue-black pheasant, which is believed to be native only to Vietnam. The Times 5-9-96

## SLIME WAVE

Snail rustling is on the increase in Sussex at a National Trust site location that's being kept secret. Wardens protecting the Roman snails (*Helix*

*pomatia*), which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, are catching poachers suspected of intending to sell their prey to restaurants. Top restaurants charge about £20 for a dozen escargots. Evening Standard (London) 19-8-96.

## MORE SLIME

A horde of snails crawled onto a Moroccan railway line, halting an express train that lost its grip on the sl. mc. Boston Globe 16-5-96.

## W H A L E S

## Measles in the Med

Blue whales in the Mediterranean are dying of what's thought to be a strain of measles. Four specimens had the characteristic mottled skin and a fever. Pollutants - mercury, lead and cadmium - have been cited as a possible cause, as these affect the immune system. Independent 1-1-96.

## "Good evening, sir. Your cetacean research sample, sir..."

A Japanese whaling ship sailed into a Tokyo port with 77 Minke whales caught during a 2-month "research" mission in the Pacific.

Although ostensibly caught for scientific reasons, most of the meat ends up as an expensive delicacy in Japanese restaurants. Aberdeen Press & Journal 18-9-96.

## I got dem ol' California Blues

Since 1991, blue whales have been entering an area of the Pacific 75 miles north west of Los Angeles. Several thousand are now thought to be there: electronic tagging may help scientists find out why they are congregating. These crustacean-eating animals have been listed as endangered since 1966. Christian Science Monitor 23-7-96.

## Dead Right

On the eastern seaboard of the USA six right whales, the most endangered of all the great whales, were washed up in the space of three months in 1996, compared to only two in all of 1995.

Biologists are puzzled over why the species continues to decline despite being federally protected since 1935. USA Today 11-3-96.



WHALE MEET AGAIN..

An article in Soviet Weekly examines the mystery of cetacean navigation and suggests that they orient themselves using their own compass. A crystalline substance possessing magnetic properties, similar to that found in pigeons and man, has been discovered in dolphins' brains.

Dr Victor Golovko writes, "If cetaceans indeed have compasses, small wonder they have learned to use them ... in the tens of millions of years of their existence." He suggests that the unexplained beachings ("suicides") that sometimes occur might be due to anomalies - local whirlpools - in the Earth's magnetic field. If a magnetic anomaly occurs with land in the vicinity, "the herd may get into a geomagnetic deadlock. Such a situation plunges the mammals into ... a state of anxiety and fear. Those leading the way, pressed by those following, then find themselves grounded." *Soviet Weekly* 13-6-91.

OUT OF PLACEBEARS

Two bears were spotted in Lower Saxony, Germany, trotting in the general direction of Harz. The witness informed the local police, who, after checking that it wasn't a joke, summoned a hunter to paralyse the bears. *Sie sollen in einem zoo untergebracht werden* - they will be sent to a zoo.

The paper *Westfalenpost* (9-9-96) offered no explanation as to their origin.

Chinese mitten crab

The Chinese furry-clawed "mitten crab" is rapidly establishing itself in the River Thames, to the detriment of the indigenous and already endangered crayfish. The crabs are not only large and aggressive, but can carry a parasite which can cause serious illness in humans. *The Richmond and Twickenham Informer*, 13-9-96.

NEWSFILE EXTRA:  
MITTEN CRABS

I have been fascinated by Freshwater crabs for most of my life. As a child in Hong Kong I kept all three native species - *Potamon anacutholon* (The Mountain Freshwater Crab), *P. hongkongsiensis* (The Hong Kong Freshwater Crab), and *Eriocheir sinensis* (The Chinese Mitten Crab). Writing in *A Colour Guide to Hong Kong Animals* (Hong Kong Government Publications 1981), Dennis Hill and Karen Phillips note:

"This is actually a member of the family Grapsidae which are marine crabs with a few species either semi-terrestrial in Mangroves or high up on the shores and a few estuarine species. The Mitten crab is a brackish water species which can live quite happily in fresh water but is alleged to require salt or brackish water to breed. (...) The hairy 'mittens' are characteristic of the species together with the patches of body hair and the four anterior-lateral teeth on the carapace.

It is an important animal zoologically in that it is the natural host for larvae of the Oriental Lung Fluke (*Paragonimus westermani*). Thus, the local practice of eating steamed mitten crab in the winter months is fraught with hazard as lung fluke infections can result."

According to Muus and Dahlstrom, writing in "Collins Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Britain and Europe" (1967):

"This crab originated in China and was accidentally carried to Europe, probably in the ballast water of ships. It was first found in Europe in 1912 in the River Aller, and has since spread to much of North West Germany, Holland, Belgium and parts of Scandinavia. It was reported from London in 1932, but as not been seen since..."

The figurative 'father' of Hong Kong Zoology, Geoffrey Herklots wrote in 1951 (*The Hong Kong Countryside*, SCMP Pubs):

"These were large, hairy crabs of the same kind or very similar to those which were introduced accidentally into Europe and did so much damage by burrowing into the banks of canals and therefore making them leaky."

It is an unworthy admission for me to make as a zoologist, (and I admit to being sentimental rather than ecological as far as this matter is concerned) but I rather like these creatures and I for one would not be too worried at seeing them become a permanent part of our ecosystem. However their impact on the environment as a whole will have to be monitored carefully!



Journal 16-11-96.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Really, Mr. Inglis. Some people will write any headline to woo the X Files audience!



### Bandicoots

Australian marsupials called bandicoots have been sighted in parts of the English midlands. Looking like large rats that can hop like kangaroos, and with a gestation period of only 15 days, the potential for crop destruction has alarmed some farmers. Bandicoots can grow up to two and a half feet long. Leicester Mercury 26-10-96

EDITORS NOTE: This story was widely reported at the time but then seems to have disappeared. It has been suggested by the more cynical at Animals & Men that this was nothing more than a publicity stunt for a video game called 'Crash Bandicoot' which was released at about the same time. However, as regular readers will know - stranger things have happened.

### Piranhas

The discovery of two piranhas in a lake in southern France triggered a fishing rush. French pet owners pay up to £12 (\$20) for piranhas, which are indigenous to South America. Westfalenpost 16-8-96

### GREYS SEEN NEAR NEWCASTLE

Fears are growing that one of England's last bastions for native red squirrels - Northumberland - is about to fall to American invaders. Greys, artificially introduced to Britain 120 years ago, have now been seen in the area. Aberdeen Press &



### Lake and Sea monsters (Broadly and Loosely)

Visitors to Lake Tianchi, a deep volcanic lake near the Chinese - North Korean border, reportedly saw a creature resembling the Loch Ness Monster. Kolner Express 8-8-96.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There have been reports for some years of a 'golden' creature found in the depths of this lake, and as reported in earlier issues of Animals & Men there are even suggestions that it has been video'ed. Needless to say, at the time of going to press we haven't actually seen a copy!

### The Mermaid of Weymouth.

A sighting of a mermaid-type creature off Weymouth, Dorset, was reported by Martin Ball, describing it as a creature whose top half resembled a sea horse and its silvery bottom half covered with fins. He hesitated to report the sighting until he came across an account in his local library of a similar sighting in 1757. It seems that at the time, in case it deterred the high society visitors of the day, who came to enjoy the sea water.

Nowadays, of course, there's nothing like a

'resident monster' to bring in the tourists. Dorset Evening Echo 24-2-96.

## JELLYFISH KILL SALMON

Thousands of salmon worth an estimated £250,000 died at a Scottish fish farm when strong tides washed hundreds of Lion's Mane jellyfish against the fish cages, forcing their poisonous tentacles through the netting. Their presence is usually appreciated by fish farmers because they feed off plankton that builds up on the mesh. Aberdeen Press & Journal 18-9-96.

## Toads

A plague of toads brought predictions of impending tragedy to central Bolivia last February. Radio reports said a main road was "coated with a thick layer of dead toads." Experts said drouth conditions had forced the toads out of their usual habitats and into farmland in search of water. Columbus Dispatch, via COUDI.

## A T T A C K S

### THIS WAS NO PICNIC

The activities of the blood-sucking organ-devouring beast known as Chupacabras have taken a sinister turn. In an incident on the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico, the beast reportedly opened a window, destroyed a stuffed teddy bear, and then departed, leaving slime on the windowsill. Aberdeen Press & Journal, 21-11-96.

## DEER ATTACKS

A Sussex woman described a deer attack on her and her Jack Russell terrier. "It was like a wildcat, it just pounced. It just kept coming at me." She was unhurt. Steve Webster of the Sussex Wildlife Trust said that deer were normally placid but this one might have been defending a faun. Evening Argus 23-5-96

Deer in London's royal parks have become distinctly aggressive as the breeding season gets under way. Several attacks on passers-by have been reported. Recent dry weather means bracken has not grown high enough for the deer to give birth in private and hide their young.

If man or beast goes too near a hidden baby, the mothers form a circle round the intruder, rush in unison and crushing it. David Smith, head ranger at Richmond Park said, "We've had quite a few dogs killed by deer." Evening Standard (London) 23-5-96.

## S C I E N C E

### MAMMOTH TASK

Researchers from Japan want to use ancient DNA from mammoths frozen in the Siberian permafrost and modern-day elephant sperm, in an effort to create half-mammoth, half-elephant offspring. Over several subsequent generations, a creature genetically close to the prehistoric woolly mammoth could then be created. Yorkshire Post 20-8-96.

## THE STING

The British scorpion *Euscorpium flavicaudus*, is still believed to be alive and well.

The one-inch-long, yellow-tailed variety is harmless, but suffers from being mistaken for its tropical cousin - people encountering one are liable to stamp on it. However, scorpion expert Bernard Betts says, "They are the ultimate survivors. They can withstand 200 times the amount of radiation we can stand, and can go without water for a year." He once discovered a colony of them in a London Underground station but a later fire under the platform destroyed them. Daily Telegraph 17-2-96.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some years ago (and I am afraid that I have mislaid the reference) Fortean Times printed a letter from a reader who claimed to have been responsible for the scorpions found at the railway station in, I think, Epping Forest.

He claimed that British Rail had been about to close the station, so in order to keep it alive he bought some scorpions from a local pet shop and released them in the station in order to have the place kept open as a site of special scientific interest. It sounds a tall story to me - but then again...

## ON THE TRACK OF UNKNOWN EVOLUTIONISTS...

Patrick Matthew, a university-educated Scottish fruit farmer, published his theory of natural selection 30 years before Darwin. And, contrary to popular belief,

Darwin never even used the word "evolution", according to The Australian. 'On the Origin of Species' gave scant source material, ignored the influences of others, and was preferentially promoted because Darwin had the right social connections, whereas Matthew was dismissed as an



"obscure writer on forest trees". The Australian 15-4-96.

## Wriggling for longer

Scientists have isolated a gene (dubbed 'age-1') that, in its mutated form, bestows longer life on the worms (*C. elegans*) that carry it. Humans have a similar gene but the implications for human lifespan adjustment are as yet unclear. Researchers say that worms with the mutated age-1 gene are unusually resistant to the chemical effects of free radicals.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Regular readers will know that amongst my other obsessions are the novels of Robert A. Heinlien. The above story is very reminiscent of a passage at the end of *Methusalem's Children* proving once again that art imitates life and vice versa. If anyone called Lazarus Long happens to be reading this magazine....

## Survival of the fittest...

The power of the corporate market is being brought to bear on protecting endangered species: under a government-backed scheme, protection of the dung beetle has now won sponsorship from Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. Other species, though, like the water vole and the brown hare, have yet to clinch a deal with the private sector. Daily Telegraph 16-5-96.

*Obviously they didn't hire a suitably high-profile advertising agency for redefining their image and niche in the wildlife market-place. Perhaps genetic engineering will one day enable hares, for instance, to be born automatically branded with industrial logos or advertisements for alcoholic drinks.*

## Neural codes: crickets and bullfrogs

Scientists trying to find how much information the nervous system can handle, and how reliably, have studied what has been dubbed "the cricket's hairy eyeball". The organ consists of thousands of tiny hairs on two antenna-like appendages that stick out from the cricket's belly.

Air movement around a hair triggers changes in the electrical signals generated by a nerve cell at the base of the hair. These signals help the animal maintain stable flight in windy conditions.

Tests on crickets in a wind tunnel, by University of California researcher John Miller, showed that the cricket can interpret wind pulses "with astonishing accuracy and reliability" using only a few nerve cells.

In another study, Stanford University researchers

played taped bullfrog calls mixed with white noise, to create a 'radio with bad reception' effect. The researchers reported that bullfrogs are surprisingly efficient at distinguishing meaningless and meaningful sound.

The scientists analysed the electrical activity in bullfrog sound-handling nerve cells and concluded that unimportant information gets filtered out by sensory nerves before it reaches the brain. St Louis Post-Dispatch 20-3-96 via COUdi.

## Animals & Men... and flowers and germs

Genetic engineering, the practice of redesigning a species by splicing genetic attributes from one species into the genetic material of another, has been utilised in producing a new type of soya bean.

Scientists seeking to make American soya beans resistant to a herbicide called 'Roundup' utilised the genetic storehouse of the petunia plant, a bacteria, and a virus. They incorporated genetic material from all three into the soya plant, producing a new organism.

Greenpeace Briefing, October 1996.

## Rabbits are our distant cousins?

A study that examined the detailed structure of 88 proteins common to all mammals indicates that rabbits are more like primates than rodents, and very much more like tree shrews, a group that is thought to have given rise to the primates.

The function of the proteins examined is the same in all species but the molecular structures can vary as a result of mutations. The longer it is since two groups shared a common ancestor, the more genetic differences are accumulated in their proteins. Saginaw News (MI) 11-3-96 via COUdi.

## Newsfile Contributors:

David Coleman, Richard Muirhead, COUdi, Wolfgang Schmidt, Herman Reichenbach, Lionel Beer, Sally Parsons, Michael Playfair, Tom Anderson, Ian Sherred, Ginny Ware.



# NEWSFILE EXTRA: NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

by Darren Naish

Many aspects of New Zealand's history, both ancient and recent, remain mysterious or poorly understood. A few discoveries made in 1996 sparked off some much needed debate regarding the timing of human arrivals on the landmass, an area with implications across both the zoological and political boards. 1996 also saw New Zealand's press speculate wildly about national disaster as, on 19th June, Mount Ruapehu provided a spectacular eruption.

Exactly when humans first came to New Zealand remains somewhat contentious. Presently the only reliably dated evidence of human presence dates to 800-850 years ago - consistent with the Maori view that they are the 'tangata whenua', or original people of the land. There is in fact a treaty, the Treaty of Waitangi, that provides the Maori with preferential treatment because of this status.

However, amateur and for-profit archaeologists frequently make claims about supposed sites or artifacts that pre-date the Maori.

As reviewed thoroughly in November's *Fortean Times* (92: 12-13), the latest of such to receive wide attention is a wall-like structure found in North Island's Kaimanawa State Forest. Photographs show the 'wall' to have a vertical face and a series of near parallel vertical lines that provide the impression of large, man-made blocks. The entire structure is 7 metres long, and each block structure is 2 metres long and 1 metre high.

Championing the 'wall' as an ancient, man-made structure is New Zealand author Barry Brailsford - a figure who has previously been strongly criticised for his views by both Maori and Pakeha (non-

Maori) alike. According to Brailsford and his colleagues 'the wall' may be a link to ancient Egyptian and South American civilisations and must have been made by the stone-carving Waitaha people, an imaginary group, hypothesised by Brailsford to have colonised New Zealand 2000 years ago. As qualified archaeologists and geologists have been able to show, however, all 'archaeological' evidence of supposedly ancient New Zealand structures dissolves on analysis - Brailsford's 'wall' being no exception. Photographs published in *Geology Today* (12: 137-8) show one end of the wall grading nicely into a fairly standard exposure of the volcanic rock ignimbrite, and a number of reputable archaeologists and geologists have been able to pin the 'wall' down to the 330,000 year old Rangitaiki Ignimbrite. Rocks such as this regularly produce near-parallel or parallel joints and cracks as they cool, and the man-made appearance of the structure is an illusion.

Exit the Kaimanawa 'wall'.

Ironically, however, November saw the publication of some serious scientific data backing the view of a pre-Maori New Zealand invasion. The data came from rats. Dr. Richard N. Holdaway, best known for his work on the giant New Zealand eagle *Harpagornis*, undertook radiocarbon tests on the bones of the Kiore or Polynesian Rat (*Rattus exulans*). He found that rat remains from fifteen sites were more than a thousand years older than they should have been, dating at about 2,000 years before present (*Nature* 384:225-6). This suggests that Kiore were resident on New Zealand at least 1,000 years before the Maori.

According to Maori legends, the first Kiore may

According to Maori legends, the first Kiore may have been taken to New Zealand in the war canoe of the great chief Te Kupe, and conventional explanations have favoured introduction of Kiore by the earliest Maori settlers.

Dogs and Kiore were the only mammals that the Maori introduced to New Zealand, and the archaeology of the Pacific islands shows that Polynesians took their rats right across the region. If, however, the rats were there before the Maori, then someone else took them there (they could not have rafted in). It would seem that transient human visitors dropped by New Zealand about 2,000 years ago, and either moved on without settlement, or died out before the Maori invasion at 800-850 years before present.

Acceptable archaeological evidence, does not, as yet, indicate the presence of such pre-Maori peoples, but perhaps they are the Moriori - an ancient mythical tribe believed in by some.

With an extra 1,000 years worth of rats on both islands of New Zealand, the possible effect of these rodents on New Zealand's fauna must be re-analysed.

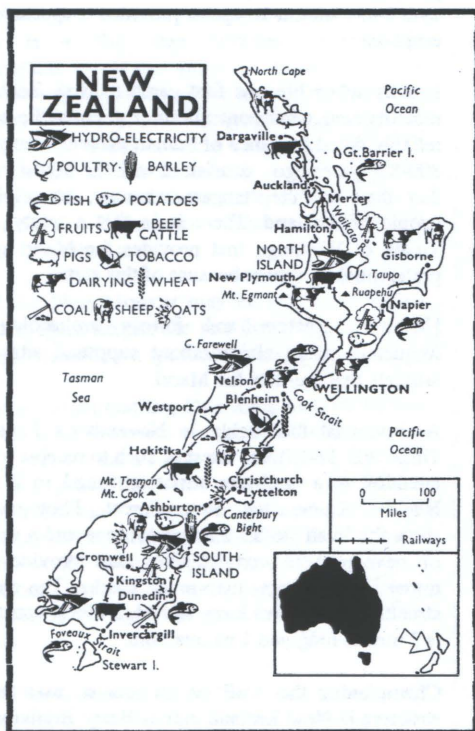
Kiore eat more fruit than the other rats that accompany man and are less aggressive, as shown by the elimination of them when Brown rats (*R. norvegicus*), Black rats, (*R. rattus*) and Stoats (*Mustela erminea*) were introduced between 1769 and 1884. If, however, any of New Zealand's fauna was vulnerable to Kiore predation, presumably it would have become extinct before the Maori invasion at 800-850 years before present.

This means that extinctions on New Zealand would occur in two waves - an earlier one of small animals starting at 2,000 years before present, and a later one of large animals (particularly moa) starting at 800-850 years before present. Better resolution of the archaeological record is needed before this theoretical model is supported.

If it is correct, then a second wave of Kiore brought

by the Maori may have had little effect on an already Kiore-affected fauna. The European introduction of the agile, climbing Black Rat seems to have adversely affected tree nesting birds that the Kiore did not kill, so there may also be an extinction of ground or bush-nesters caused by Kiore, followed by an extinction of tree-nesters caused by the Black rat.

Extinction of tree-nesters is also correlated with deforestation, and this occurred throughout Maori and Pakeha residence. The introduction of Mustelids in 1884 may not have had adverse affects because the better part of the damage had already been done, but mustelids and Black rats together predated upon - ironically - the Kiore. Clearly, the chronology of extinction on New Zealand is anything but simple!



# Newsfile Extra:

## The Lion Sleeps Tonight.

EDITOR'S NOTE: During the closing months of 1996 I was flicking through the news pages of the teletext when I noticed a story claiming that a small group of Barbary Lions, thought extinct, had been found starving to death amongst the effects of a bankrupt travelling circus in Mozambique. I have unfortunately lost the reference, which is annoying, especially as I have not been able to unearth any further details on this fortuitous event.

I mentioned it in passing to various cronies on the A&M Editorial team and was not at all surprised when several told me that they knew quite a lot about this elusive subspecies. Here is a selection from what they sent me:

### The Barbary Lion

by Chris Moiser

The Barbary Lion, *Panthera leo leo*, is one of those enigmatic subspecies that has caused much concern and debate amongst taxonomists. Officially, it became extinct when the last wild one was shot in about 1922 in the Atlas Mountains, but news of its extinction may have been premature.

As a subspecies, its recognisable characteristics were, in the male, the long black mane which ran along the full underside of the body. This visual characteristic was shared with the other extinct subspecies, the Cape Lion, *Panthera leo melanochaita*. It is generally believed that the dark thick mane of both animals evolved as a response to the lack of dense bush, and the cool winters in their respective ranges.

Prior to its extinction in the wild, the Barbary Lion was fairly well represented in captivity. For example, John Edwards, in his book 'London Zoo from Old Photographs', shows 'Sultan', a Barbary Lion in London Zoo in 1896. As lions are one of the easiest cats to breed in captivity it is likely that Sultan, and other members of his subspecies, combined many of his genes with those of other subspecies

before they died out. It is, after all, only in the last thirty or so years that zoos became sensitive about keeping their subspecies pure! It is quite possible that many of the European zoo African Lions contain genes belonging to the Barbary Lion subspecies.

The story becomes more confused because it is thought that the lions that were found in the King of Morocco's zoo were a remnant population of pure bred Barbary Lions. As a result several were moved to western zoos as part of a subspecies rescue programme. There are now over fifty in various world zoos. A pride may be seen in England at Port Lympne in Kent, one of John Aspinall's establishments.

More recently another colony of eleven long and dark maned lions was found in a zoo in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia by Dr. Hym Ebedes, a South African veterinarian with zoo experience. These appear to be descendants of the lions that were in the private Royal Zoo that closed after the emperor, Haile Sellasie, ('The Lion of Judah'), was deposed in 1974. In the International Zoo Yearbook for 1959 this collection was referred to as the 'Imperial Collection of Lions'.

Although it is highly likely that these lions are descended from Barbary Lions and not Cape Lions, Dr. Ebedes seems keen that long, black maned lions, should again be seen in the Cape. The Cape Lion



became extinct probably in about 1850. It is thought that Dr. Ebedes has been in touch with the Capetown Public Works Department to see if the derelict lion enclosure in the old Cecil Rhodes Zoo could be renovated to house them. Although the zoo, at Groot Schuur, on the outskirts of Cape Town closed, and was largely dismantled in the 1980s, the lion enclosure was a very substantial structure and is largely undamaged.

### References.

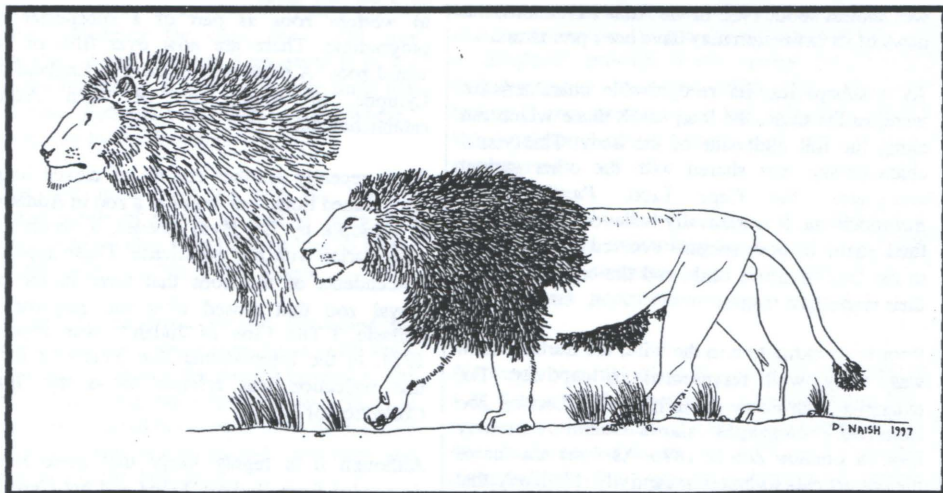
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## Lost Lion Renaissance

by Darren Naish

Reported widely in the press during the July of 1996 was the discovery, in an Addis Ababa zoo, of a group of lions that seemed to be of a supposedly extinct subspecies. News of the eleven animals has not been forthcoming, but according to reports the three males in the group are characterised by extensive, thick black manes.

Coat and mane colour is quite variable within lions, but only two sub-species - the Atlas or Barbary Lion (*Panthera leo leo*), and the Cape Lion (*P.l.melanochaita*) <sup>(1)</sup>, ordinarily have thick, extensive manes. Or ordinarily DID have - for both subspecies are generally thought to be extinct. Barbary lions - ironically the sort of lions that serve as the type for all members of their species - were caught in great numbers for use in Roman Gladiatorial contests.



Africa's biggest, most thickly furred lions - the dark Cape lion of the south, and the light Barbary lion of the north. Picture by Darren N.

Hunting and encroachment on their habitat further reduced the wild population, and by the late 1880s they were in severe trouble. Officially the last one was killed in 1922. Cape lions, similarly were extensively hunted in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were first eliminated from around Cape Town, and in 1858 the last one reported to have been seen in Cape Province was killed. Some authorities quote the extinction date for this form as 'mid 1850s', but it is also widely stated that the very last one was hunted down and shot by General Bisset in 1865. This was in Natal.

An interesting fact worthy of mention here is that Dr. David Livingstone himself was mauled by a lion, and in fact was dealt an arm fracture by the animal. This occurred in Bechuanaland sometime, I presume, around 1840. <sup>(2)</sup> By this time, Cape Lions would have been extremely rare: according to some sources, Livingstone's lion may have been one of the very last. However, there is a 1936 record of a lion shot by a Mr. Lennox Anderson near Hectorspruit in the eastern Transvaal. Lions other than *P.l. melanochaita* did, and still do, occur in this area (they have even been reintroduced to parks in Natal, perhaps their most southerly stronghold in present times), but the immense size of this individual - it was reportedly 313 kg in weight, and is thus listed in some editions of the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest lion ever - suggests that it may have been a Cape lion (see below). If it had a dark, extensive mane, there is a very good chance of it having been so. In one sense at least, either or maybe both of these lions may live on. Genes from them doubtless still occur in other lions, especially those in captivity, and some cat experts have long been of the opinion that Barbary lions may still be hidden away in zoos. Some sources report that Barbary-type lions have also been reconstituted in captivity by cross-breeding. Morocco's Rabat zoo has apparently had some success with this venture. So, how does one choose the lions that might be candidates for such a reconstitution programme?

Being at the latitudinal extremes of the African lion's range, and thereby presented with similar climates, Barbary and Cape lions shared similar

traits. Both were huge animals - big males of both subspecies allegedly exceeded 227 kg and 3 m. For comparison, a really big lion of another subspecies may reach 180 kg. The biggest living cat ever recorded, a Siberian tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) shot near the Amur River around 1933, weighed 364 kg. As noted above, there is one record of a 313 kg lion.

The lion's mane relates intimately to its sociality: there seems to be correlation between number of pride members, male territoriality, and degree of decoration in males. It may also be that mane size and extent relates to climate and vegetation cover. Whatever, both Barbary and Cape lions had very large, bulky manes that extended right under their bodies to the middle of the ribcage. Though no details have been reported on the body size of the Addis Ababa zoo lions, they are said to have extensive, black manes. This allows candidature of the Cape lion without doubt, but I am not so sure if the Barbary lion had a dark mane. In his 1908 book *The Game Animals of Africa*, Richard Lydekker described the Barbary lion as 'dusky ochre'. A meticulously researched restoration by Maurice Wilson for David Day's monumental work *The Encyclopedia of Vanished Species* similarly depicts a Barbary lion with a light brown mane. Apparently, females of this subspecies had a white inner foreleg. So: more information from Addis Ababa please!

### Notes

1. *P.l. melanochaitus*, seen in many sources, is incorrect.

2. EDITOR's NOTE: I checked with my father who is presently writing a book on the history of pre-colonial Africa, and he gave me the following information, gleaned from Livingstone, by Tim Jeal (Book Club Assoc, 1973 ed, London). Livingstone's encounter with the lion occurred at Mabotse on the sixteenth of february 1844. His arm was splintered at once, and the long teeth of the beast made a series of "gashes like gunshot wounds". The wound suppurated for months and Livingstone was very ill, before being nursed back to health by Mary Moffat, whom he eventually married. (pp 58-9).

## BETWEEN THE LIONS

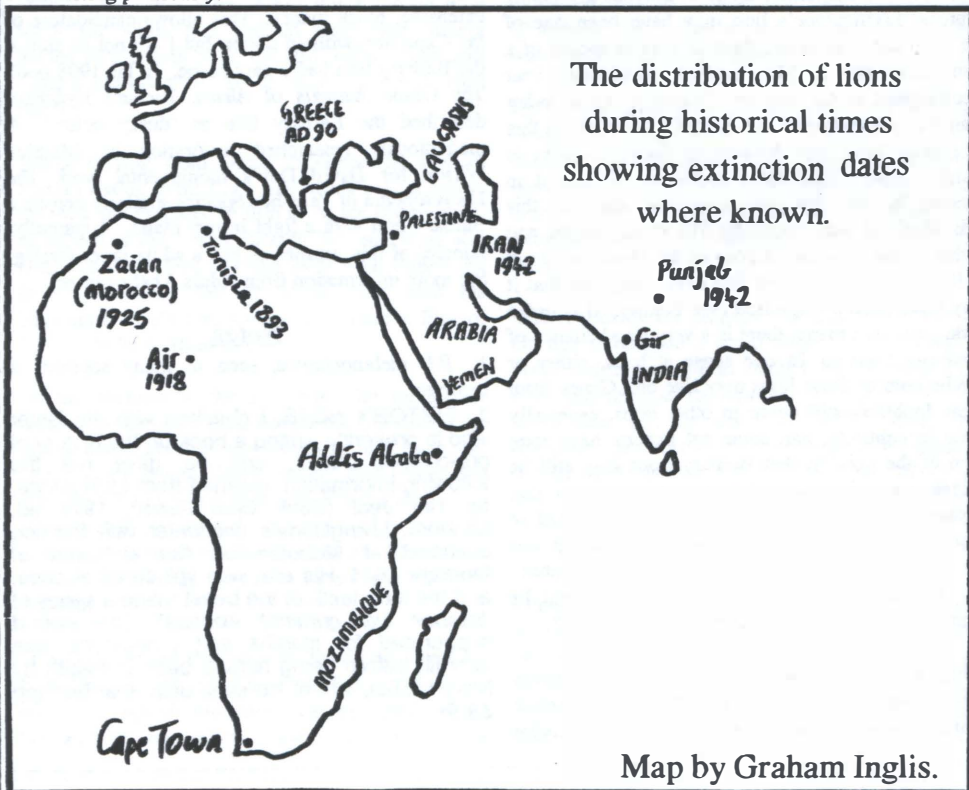
by Jonathan Downes

According to Guggisberg (1975) lions were found across a far wider geographical range in historical times than they are now. They were found across the continent of Africa, and across parts of the Arab Peninsula, Asia Minor, and Iran to northern India. Surprisingly, although lions were wiped out in Palestine at about the time of the Crusades, the species was found in Iran as late as 1923, when one was killed south of Shiraz. Other animals were reported in 1928 and 1929 and Guggisberg wrote that "...some authors think it possible that there may be a few Persian lions even today." He also noted that an entomologist called Hugh Scott had presented evidence to suggest that lions were found relatively recently in the Yemen. The Asian lions of the Gir forest in northern India are well known, but the possibility of surviving lions elsewhere in Asia is a tantalising possibility.

In classical times they were found in Greece but there have been no European lions since the days of Hercules. Surprisingly, however, Guggisberg notes that the last surviving tigers and leopards in what is still technically Europe died out well within living memory.

He writes that the Anatolian Leopard *P.p.tulliana* was last seen in the Caucasus in 1956, and says that a few animals may still exist in Transcaucasia. The last tigers in the region were shot in about 1930. Emotionally information like this is a double-edged sword.

Whilst it is unarguably exciting to discover that such wonderful creatures were found so widely within a relatively recent time-scale, the knowledge that within the lifetime of my parents, humanity has managed to decimate the distribution of so many of the animals with whom we share this planet is indeed a heavy load to bear!





## LIFE WITH THE LIONS

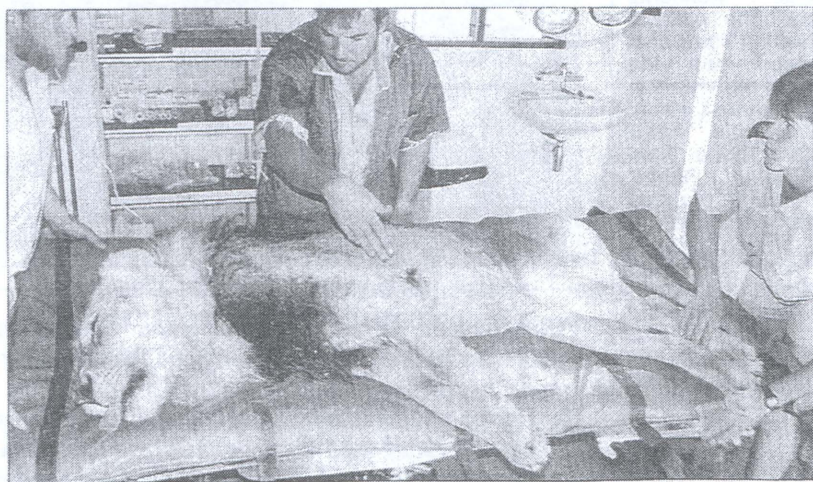
(THE END BIT)

Two days before we went to press I received a telephone call. It was from Michael Playfair, a long-time Animals & Men reader and newsfile contributor. He asked whether I had heard about the Barbary Lion being found in Mozambique. I told him, essentially what I had written in the introduction to this section, and he told me to check my post the following morning. This I did, and found a cutting from the *Sunday Express*, dated 22.12.96. The Akef Egyptian Circus had been stranded in Maputo in Mozambique since its owner El Sayed Hussein Akef had absconded in January 1996. The animals had been cared for by the few members of staff at the circus who remained, but by the time rescuers from a London based animal charity called Animal Defenders arrived on the scene the creatures, which included a python, horses, dogs, tigers and eight lions - three of which; a male, now named Akef, after the circus in which he was found, and two lionesses - Hod and Nazine, are suspected to be Barbary lions.

The animals have now been moved to Hoedspruit Research and Breeding Centre for Endangered Species in South Africa.

The article also featured two photographs of the (admittedly slightly mangy looking) Akef, and these pictures go some way towards resolving the mystery about the mane colour of this subspecies. In one of the pictures he is seen sitting on the ground. The picture is taken in profile and his mane appears to be brownish in colour - not a million miles away from the 'dusky ochery' described by Lydekker. The other picture shows him, anaesthetised and lying on his side, surrounded by people, on what appears to be a vet's operating table. Here one can see that the lower part of the mane is much darker - indeed it appears to be black. The mane appears to have two 'layers' - an upper lighter one and a lower dark one. Therefore the apparent inconsistencies between the different accounts of the morphology of this subspecies appear less significant.

It appears, therefore, that there are now two, presumably unrelated, groups of what appear to be Barbary lions in South Africa.



Akef the lion being examined by a vet. Note dark coloured mane on under side of body. Picture c/o The Copyright Liberation Front.

Their provenance seems uncertain, especially as the Rabat Zoo project was only carried out relatively recently, (and it appears that the lions owned by the Emperor Haile Selassie were donated by the King of Morocco many years before), and until we get more information on the three which were found in Mozambique, the true significance of this episode is uncertain. The plot thickens ... watch this space!

**EDITORIAL NOTE:** Who in 1969 released a dreadful album called 'Life with the Lions', and where was side A. recorded? The first person who telephones me with the answer gets a free year's subscription to this wonderful magazine. The editorial team were somewhat disappointed with the response to the phone in quiz in the last issue. Several people noted that 'Glass Onion' from The Beatles 'White' album (1968) featured the word 'walrus' in the lyrics. Darren Naish (bless him) suggested 'God' from the John Lennon/Plastic Ono Band album, which also features the word. No-one, however suggested the third song 'Death Trip' by my old Boss Steve Harley (and Cockney Rebel), and as no-one got more than one walrus ditty the prize remains unclaimed!



Akef the lion - a slightly moth-eaten 'King of the Beasts' (Picture c/o The Copyright Liberation Front.

*The Editor would like to thank the following people for being on hand with their help during the research for this collection: J.T.Downes, Dr Karl Shuker, Chris Moiser, Graham Inglis, Simon Elsdon, Darren Naish, Austin Orchard, Michael Playfair and anyone else he's forgotten!*



## Strangers in a Strange Land

### Sightings of Unexpected Animals in Germany: Where on earth did they come from?

by Wolfgang Schmidt

With a total population of nearly 80 million people living in a comparatively small country, Germany is one of the most densely populated countries of the world. The last thing that would be expected here are large, exotic animals roaming the wild. Nevertheless, individuals step forward to claim some of the most unbelievable sightings: wolves, bears, even pumas, panthers, and crocodiles. Can they all be mistaken? Or is this some kind of elaborate hoax by some pranksters to fool the population? Or is there another explanation? In the following article, which is by no means complete, the author will try to shed some light on a few of those unusual sightings.

#### 1. Re - Imports: They're back

*Some big animals that once populated Germany but were driven to extinction by habitat loss and extensive hunting. Now, after the „Fall of the Wall,“ they are starting to return to their former territory.*

Go West - not just a popular song by the Pet Shop Boys frequently played in European Football stadiums, but also a new trend in the migration patterns all over eastern Europe. The end of the Cold War has led to the largest migration in Europe in nearly 50 years. It's not just humans trying to improve their miserable economic situation by moving to West Europe looking for a new home; but also a number of animals long extinct in

densely populated western Europe, such as wolf, bear, lynx, and wildcat, are showing a remarkable comeback in areas where they have been absent for a century or more. (1)

The most prominent (and numerous) of all returnees is the *Wolf*, *canis lupus*. After centuries of being relentlessly hunted, it was practically wiped out in West Europe, except for some smaller populations in Spain and the French *Ardennes* and *Pyrenees* mountains. In East Europe, particularly remote regions of the former Soviet Union (such as Siberia), it was still relatively common, numbering about 150,000. (2)

With the end of the cold war and the „Fall of the Wall,“ the wolf started recovering



its old territory. After being extinct in Germany for nearly 150 years, eastern Germany was among the first places where the wolf returned. Moving in from western Poland on age-old paths that had been blocked for decades, wolves were seen more and more often, especially in the German state of Brandenburg. An estimated 20 - 40 wolves are now roaming that area again and, as the number of contacts with humans increase, the first fatalities have occurred - on the side of wolves! Several already lost their lives in car accidents and cases of mistaken identities (when thought to be feral dogs and shot ).(3)

Mecklenburg and Niedersachsen are two more northern German states where wolf sightings are on the increase. Following the stabilization of the wolf populations in eastern Poland (about 900 animals) and Slovakia (450) in the 1970s, individual wolves kept moving westward into the northern German low plains. Since the German-German border was opened and the mine fields were swept, the numbers of wolf visitors from the east have gone up further. (4)

The *Bayrischer Wald* (Bavarian Forest), where the last recorded shooting of a wolf occurred in 1846, also reported the return of the wolf. After first sightings were reported and wolf tracks were found near the Czech border in the fall of 1992, a wolf was reported by witnesses and later run over by a train when trying to cross a railway in December of 1994. The autopsy revealed its identity to be that of a free-roaming wolf. Since subsequent checks with zoos did not show any escapees, the best explanation is it crossed over from the Czech Republic. (5) Today, there are at least six wolves

confirmed to be living in the *Bayrischer Wald Nationalpark*. (6)

Even more surprising was the case of „Lupo,” a wolf seen and finally shot in the *Eifel* region ( close to Köln), in spring of 1994. After killing three sheep and avoiding several traps by local hunters, the wolf was finally ambushed and shot by police and finished off by a local hunter. When a closer examination of the body showed the wolf to be a female, *she* was appropriately renamed „Lupine.” (7, 8)

In the fall of 1995, the area around Val Ferret in neighboring Switzerland, was haunted by a ferocious beast, described alternatively as a dog, wolf, or simply „beast,” which killed more than 70 sheep. The description of the animal was usually „like a German Shepherd Dog, with longer hair and light-colored spots.” (9) Half a year and more than 30 dead sheep later, the Swiss authorities decided to put an end to the reign of the „Beast of Val Ferret” and hunted it down. As it turned out, the „beast” was indeed a wolf; it was shot, but managed to escape wounded. This is the last I have heard about the creature's destiny. (10)

In Germany, as in most of Europe except for a few eastern countries (Slovakia, Romania, etc.), the **Brown bear**, *Ursus arctos*, has been extinct for more than a century. In the middle ages it used to inhabit most of Europe, but was decimated and hunted to extinction in most of western and central Europe several hundred years ago. Humans and bears just didn't seem to be able to get along, and, as a result, wherever human population density increased, bear populations decreased. (11)

Expecting to be perfectly safe from any dangerous predators in highly industrialized South Germany, unsuspecting tourists in the *Bayrische Alpen* (Bavarian Alps) had a scary moment when running into brown bears in spring of 1996. Fortunately, no harm was done. These bears are believed to have wandered across the border from Slovakia after the end of the cold war and have found a new home in the Bavarian Alps. (12)

These pocket populations may have a chance to survive if given proper protection by the alpine countries they have wandered into. Generally smaller and less aggressive than their North American counterparts, the European brown bears have not caused many problems when inhabiting remote areas or particularly rugged terrain without much contact with humans. (13)

Another, even more surprising encounter with bears took place between the towns of Langelshiem and Seesen in Niedersachsen. In September of 1995, a local hunter spotted two brown bears slowly crossing a highway and called the police. An animal hunter was summoned and managed to catch the couple, which was then sent to a nearby zoo. No information was given where the two bears may have come from. (14)

Although the European lynx, *Felis lynx*, never posed any real threat to man or his livelihood, it was never-the-less hunted out of existence in Germany and most of central Europe. Now, after more than 100 years of extinction, the lynx has returned to Germany. (15).

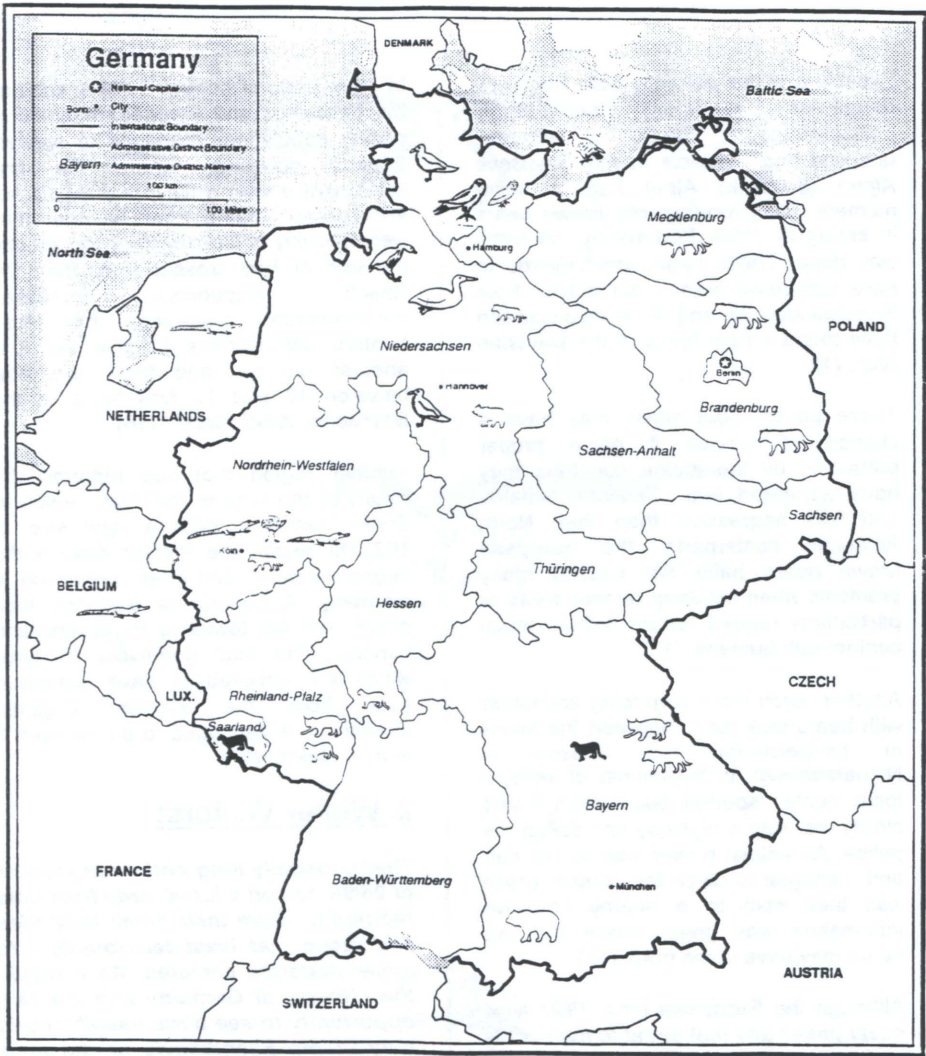
In other parts of central Europe, such as the *Karpathes* and *Pyrenees* mountains, pocket populations managed to survive. Experts disagree, where the first specimens showing up in the *Bayrischer Wald* forests came from: whether they were secretly or illegally reintroduced into the wild or had crossed over from the Czech Republic. Increased environmental awareness has lead hunters and farmers to give the lynx another chance, and there are now between 10 and 15 lynx living in the *Bayrischer Wald* forest.. (16)

Another region that has reported the return of the lynx is the *Pfalz* region in South Germany. With a total size of 163,000 hectar, the *Pfälzer Wald* is the largest uninterrupted forest remaining in Germany. A number of sightings took place near the towns of Pirmasens and Landau. The total population of lynx, which are believed to have wandered over from the French *Vogesen* mountains, is estimated to be between 8 and 10 strong. (17)

## 2. Winter Visitors:

*The unusually long and strong winter of 95/96 forced a lot of birds from cold regions to leave their home territories and move - at least temporarily - to more moderate climates. As a result, the citizens of Germany had the rare opportunity to see birds usually found only in the Scandinavia or the arctic circle.*

When a Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*, was spotted over the island of Fehmarn (Baltic sea) this caused quite a stir among ornithologists and nature



Confirmed populations:

Wolf		Bear		Lynx				
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Sightings:

Puma		Black Panther		Wolf		Bear		Crocodilians		Nandu	
Golden Eagle		Snowy Owl		Iceland Gull		Common Loon		Pink-footed Goose		Gyr-falcon	



lovers. After all, the bird has been extinct in Northern Germany for several hundred years and exists in central Europe only in a few secluded pockets in the southern Alps. (18)

Perhaps even more of a surprise were sightings of several **Snowy Owls**, *Nyctea scandiaca*, in northern Germany. Indigenous to the tundras of eastern Europe, northern Scandinavia, and the Arctic, this huge, near-white owl (wingspan up to 1.6 m or 5' 4") must have left quite an impression on the witnesses who saw it.

The **Glaucous Gull**, *Larus hyperboreus*, with a wingspan of up to 1.8 meters (6 feet) among the largest of all gulls, usually spends its time patrolling the waters of the northern Scandinavia looking for fish. Only occasionally, during the coldest of winters, does it come down to the continental European shores. This winter, however, it was seen as far south as Hannover (Niedersachsen), where unsuspecting witnesses probably didn't believe their eyes.

Even more surprising was the arrival of the Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoideus*, in northern Germany. The German name („Polarmöve“) indicates that it is usually indigenous to the arctic circle and the northernmost regions of Iceland and Greenland, but this particularly strong and long-lasting winter forced birds well-adapted to the cold, such as the Iceland gull, to look for a different place to spend the winter.

Another unexpected visitor from the arctic north to Germany was the **Pink-footed Goose**, *Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus*, which usually lives in Iceland and winters

in Great Britain. No less surprising were sightings of **Great Northern Divers**, *gavia immer*, better known as the Common loon which calls the arctic waters of North America, Greenland, and Iceland its home.

Due to its size, beauty, and rarity, the **Gyr Falcon**, *Falco rusticolus*, belongs to the most highly valued birds of prey in the world: Arabic falconers pay up to 100,000 DM (US-\$ 65,000) for a single bird. Normally, its territory is restricted to the arctic and some coasts of northern Scandinavia, but this winter there were a number of sightings in northern Germany near Hamburg. (19,20,21,22)

### 3. Cryptids: Exotic Intruders

*Then, there are sightings of exotic animals that were never known to exist in Germany, weren't missing from any private or public menageries, but continued to be seen in different places before - usually - disappearing without a trace.*

In the late 1980s, Germany experienced a wave of **Alien Big Cats** (ABC) sightings. Ulrich Magin, one of Germany's leading Fortean researchers, summarized the in a Fortean Times article and found that most of the sightings took place in South Germany (Hessen, Saarland, Bayern). After mounting several large-scale, but unsuccessful, searches, the German police - ill-equipped to deal with Fortean phenomena - tried to solve the problem by claiming that there never was a panther to start with. (23)

Despite the police's claims to the contrary, the „panther“ sightings didn't go away. In the early 90s, a new wave of sightings occurred in the same general area as the previous one: *Saarland*, *Pfalz*, and *Bavaria*.

In June of 1992, several German newspapers reported sightings of big black cats in Germany. One particular incident made the headlines: In an open field near Saarbrücken, two policemen observed what they described as a „large, black feline,“ about 1 meter (40“) long and what they declared to be a panther. (24)

Obviously, this big cat sighting was taken very seriously, since the professional football team of Bayern München (Munich), preparing for an upcoming game, switched to a different practice field.

Besides this newswire report, there were more sightings of „black panthers,“ mainly in South Germany. Either the cat(s) moved considerable distances in a short time, or the sighting „triggered“ more encounters.

The following year, southern Germany got its next big cat scare. This time, it was „just“ a cougar, that was spotted several times in the *Pfälzer Wald* near Landshut and Homburg. As usual in these kinds of sightings, nobody was attacked and the police mounted a large-scale - but unsuccessful - search for the beast. Later, they declared that it had to have been an escaped pet, although they couldn't find anybody missing one. (25)

In 1994, we went back to the black panthers, again. Two anglers, fishing in

the „Schwarze Laabe“ river in the *Bayrischer Wald*, reported seeing a black panther. Those big cats sure like southern Germany! No need to mention that nobody was attacked, the police did not manage to catch the cat ... (26)

There may be yet another explanation other than mass hallucinations, hoaxes, escaped pets, or hordes of exotic cats invading Germany: The *Bayrischer Wald Nationalpark* is one of the last big natural habitats left in Germany. Due to its size and physical proximity to the Czech border, wolves, moose, and even bears have already crossed the border into Germany. Because of its appeal to wildlife, the Bavarian forest was selected as a site for the reintroduction of the lynx, who now thrives in small but steady numbers. Could it be that young adults, wandering off and looking for their own territory got a little „carried away“ and ended up in other areas of southern Germany (where most of the big cat sightings occurred)? You couldn't blame Germans, not used to seeing either cougar or lynx, or any other big cats for that matter, for confusing the two during a surprise encounter in the wild!

While all those „dangerous“ big cats minded their own business and didn't hurt anybody, a seemingly harmless Nandu (a south American relative of the African ostrich) „created havoc“ in Germany. For two days, the big bird scared and even attacked pedestrians near Hellental (*Eifel* region) until the police finally took the reports seriously and sent a patrol car to investigate. The two officers tried to subdue the bird, but it resisted arrest and tried to escape. One of the two officers chased the bird and actually managed to catch it (!!!). (I don't ever want to hear

jokes about the physical fitness of our lawmen anymore.) Despite being scratched in his face by the powerful 1.5 meter animal and unable to get his handcuffs, the officer used his uniform tie to tie up the big bird. Apparently, this was too much for the Nandu, since it died shortly afterwards in an animal shelter where the police had brought it. A police spokesman later suggested that the bird had escaped from a private compound ... (27)

There were other, equally unbelievable reports of strange animal sightings in Germany, such as piranhas downriver from a nuclear power plant near Düsseldorf, but let me finish with a mystery that never was: crocodilians in Germany:

In 1994, news of a crocodile hunt made the headlines in German newspapers. *Sammy*, who was actually a caiman, had escaped when his owner, Jörg Zars, took him for a swim in a lake. The 4-foot reptile caused such a „panic“ that the police was called to shoot the beast to protect the public. Although the police claimed they succeeded, several days later *Sammy* was caught unharmed and now spends his time in Falkenstein zoo, while his owner released a Rap CD to raise money for his legal bills: resort hotels had sued him for losses due to the „terror“ that *Sammy* had caused around the lake.

A few days later, a dead caiman was found in a different, far-away lake; probably the casualty of some „copy cat,“ who had tried to get rid of his overgrown pet when the „crocodile hype“ was still on.

In april of 1996, a Düsseldorf(Nordrhein-Westfalen) judge ruled the caiman ro be

returned to Jörg Zars, where he will join *Sammy 2*, who was purchased as a substitute Zars (28)

At first, police in my hometown of Lennestadt (Nordrhein-Westfalen) thought it was a practical joke: „Help me, there is a crocodile in front of my apartment door.“ Again, the „crocodile“ turned out to be a caiman - a scary twelve-incher! After interrogating the caller, it turned out he was actually the owner of the small reptile: his former girl friend had simply returned the little critter after they broke up and left it in a basket in front of his apartment. (29)

No wild crocodiles (or caimans) in Germany, it seems. Big surprise! But how about those sightings just west of Germany, in Belgium and Holland?

In Belgium, an angler fishing a lake for pike, caught what he thought was the biggest fish of his life: Pulling in the line, it turned out to be a 3-foot caiman instead. (30) Talking about „pulling:“ maybe, somebody was pulling our leg here.

In Holland, *at least there really was a caiman*. After it escaped from its terrarium, the owner called the police, who started a large-scale search for the reptile. In the meantime, the Dutch media got wind of this, and turned the 3-foot caiman into a „ferocious beast coming straight from the jungle and viciously attacking and devouring anybody coming its way.“ The search was finally called off, and the caiman found - quietly and peacefully sitting in a closet of its owner's house. (31)



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## OUT OF THIS WORLD: EXO BIOLOGY

by Graham Inglis

### OBITUARY: CARL SAGAN 1934-1996

Carl Sagan, longtime professor of astronomy and space science at Cornell University in New York, died in December aged 62. He was most widely known for his efforts in explaining astronomy and science to the public - particularly in his tv series *Cosmos*.

His enthusiasm for astronomy spanned virtually the whole of his life. His first major research was on the atmosphere and surface conditions of Venus, at a time when our knowledge of the planet was skimpy: this was before the days of the Venera spaceprobe landings. His conclusions were a major contribution to Mankind's newly-emerging awareness of a phenomenon later dubbed "the greenhouse effect".

Sagan was not only an astronomer. He'd gained an MSc in physics (1956) and studied biology and genetics, and, in 1983, together with biologist Paul Erlich, first proposed the "nuclear winter" theory - dust from enough nuclear strikes could reduce sunlight and put all life on Earth at risk. This was politically "hot stuff" at the height of the cold war.

Sagan's forays into anthropology led him to explain much of human behaviour in terms of the 'R-complex' - that part of the brain we have inherited from our remote ancestors, the reptiles. While humans have evolved extra 'layers' of the brain, such as the cerebral cortex, the R-complex remains responsible for base instincts like territoriality, greed and aggression - still very much part of human behaviour today.

Despite this, as millions know from *Cosmos*, Sagan was essentially an optimist. Most astronomers automatically dismissed Jupiter as a possible life-bearing planet. Not Sagan. He postulated an entire ecosystem in the ammonia/helium cloud deck, including floating animals operating like hot-air balloons.

When assessing the likelihood of life elsewhere in the universe, Sagan, unlike many scientists, tenaciously believed it thrives in abundance.

### OBITUARY: CLYDE TOMBAUGH 1907-1997

Clyde Tombaugh, the discoverer of Pluto in 1930, died in January aged 90. Tombaugh conducted a long and systematic search in an area of the sky calculated to be the likeliest area for Planet X - a planet gravitationally tugging at Neptune and Uranus. However, it was soon realised that Pluto was not the Neptune-perturbing Planet X after all: it's too small. Tombaugh's discovery was, though, an important link in the ongoing investigation of the mysterious outer edge of our Solar System.

# New Discoveries of yet MORE bird-like Dinosaurs.

by Darren Naish

Few non-specialists realise just how many types of dinosaur are presently known (about 800 genera), or how often new kinds are discovered. Presently, about one new species is discovered every two months - a very high rate considering that, just a few decades ago, some people thought that there were no new dinosaurs to be found. Furthermore, this rate of discovery is not slowing down, but speeding up! Clearly we have a long way to go before we can view Mesozoic ecosystems in their entirety. In recent months, a surprisingly high number of smaller, bird-like dinosaurs have come to light. These provide yet more irrefutable evidence for the notion that birds are dinosaurs, and part of that bipedal, mostly carnivorous group; the Theropoda.

Theropods first appeared in the late Triassic, (approx. 225 million years before present): already they were superficially bird-like with short, stiff bodies, long curved necks and long legs. It was not until the late Jurassic (approximately 150 m.y.b.p), however, that small climbing forms began to experiment with true flight: at this time the first member of Aves, *Archaeopteryx*, appeared. Previously it was thought that *Archaeopteryx lithographica* and the strata in which it was found were of Tithonian age, but recent dating studies suggest instead that they are Kimmeridgian. (Figure One) - thus the appearance of birds is pushed back a few million years. Also, in 1995, Andrea Weigert reported *Archaeopteryx*-like teeth from the late Oxfordian-early Kimmeridgian of Portugal. A second *Archaeopteryx* species, *Abavarica*, described by Peter Wellnhofer in 1993 is younger than *Alithographica* and is probably uppermost Kimmeridgian in age, while a new specimen from Korea, reported in 1994, dubbed the 'Korean *Archaeopteryx*' may extend the range of these birds

into the earliest Cretaceous. (Fig. 2).

Fragmentary bits and pieces from the late Jurassic of Wyoming and the early Cretaceous of Romania have also been referred to *Archaeopteryx*, but in most cases they have turned out to be either indeterminate or pterosaurian (pterosaur bone fragments often look very bird-like). There has also long been debate over whether *Archaeopteryx lithographica* itself contains two additional taxa: *Archacornis siemenssi* (Dames, 1897), for the Berlin specimen, and *Jurapteryx recurva* (Howgate, 1984), for the tiny Eichstatt specimen <sup>(1)</sup>. Further complexity is added by the fact that the name *Archaeopteryx lithographica* (Von Meyer, 1861), seems to have been first created for an individual feather found in 1860 <sup>(2)</sup>, rather than for a complete skeleton. However, yet again a dinosaur group known initially from a single taxon is found to be more diverse than first imagined.

Considerable debate still exists over whether the Archaeopterygids were tree or ground dwellers, though it is now generally agreed that they were capable of competent flight. Those who support the ground-dwelling theory point out that the theropods closest to the archaeopterygids were ground-bound too. However, a minority opinion holds that all dinosaurs are descendants of small, tree-dwelling forms which were the direct ancestors of birds, and if this is correct we are simply missing small, tree-dwelling dinosaurs that predate birds from the fossil record.

Evidence that bird relatives were primitively arboreal may come from a new specimen, as yet undescribed, but now displayed on the www. Discovered accidentally by the Linster family of Stephenville, Montana, this small theropod, one of

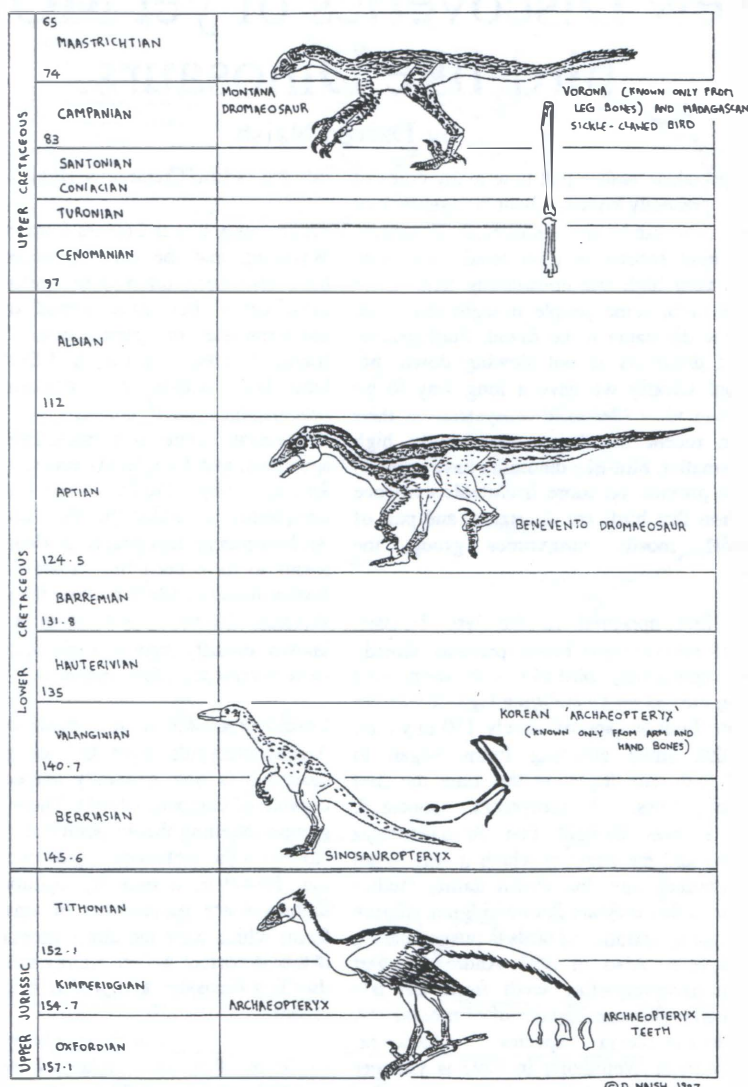


Figure 1.

Chronological distribution of the animals mentioned in this article.  
The numbers represent millions of years before present.



the dromaeosaurids - the most bird-like of all non-birds - is represented by a virtually complete specimen. It is only about 25cm tall at the hips, and has extraordinarily long arms and legs, a relatively small skull, and a large *fercula* (wish bone). Its teeth and other features suggest that it belongs to the genus *Saurornitholestes*, named by Hans-Dieter Sues in 1978.

Despite this animal's small size it does not appear to be a juvenile. Juvenile vertebrates, including dinosaurs, have proportionally large tall skulls with huge eyes. This dinosaur does not. Also, in juvenile dinosaurs, elements like the *fercula* tend not to be ossified, whereas in this specimen they are. For full details we shall have to wait for the complete description: this should be published early in 1997.

This animal's foot is especially important. Like all other dromaeosaurids (and primitive birds including *Archaeopteryx*), it has a raised second toe which supports a 'sickle claw'. In large dromaeosaurids, this was a devastating and awesome weapon with which they could slash open the bellies of prey dinosaurs, but in these small forms it was relatively feeble. Perhaps it first appeared in arboreal forms as an aid to climbing. More importantly, the first toe (the *hallux*), of this new specimen is very low down on the foot and may have been opposable to the other toes. In birds, such an adaptation allows them to grasp branches. If this feature evolved before birds did, it may be further evidence that the theropod ancestors of birds were already in the trees.

Another tiny dromaeosaurid, but this time from the Aptian of Benevento, Italy, was described by Leonardi and Teruzzi in 1993 (it also got front-cover billing in the Italian magazine *Oggi*). Unlike the Montana dromaeosaurid, it has rather short limbs and its proportionally large skull (shaped very much like that of *Archaeopteryx*) indicates its juvenile status. It represents an as-yet-unnamed new genus. Its feet are missing, so we cannot tell whether it had an opposable *hallux* like the Montana specimen, but it is exceptional in that it has a soft tissue outline preserved.

This reveals that dromaeosaurids did not have wing membranes (called *patagia*) as one authority, David Peters, has suggested.

Though telling in that regard, the preserved outline of the Benevento dromaeosaur does not preserve any integument.

As announced in *A&M* 11 (pp. 10-11), a small, apparently feathered theropod, informally named *Sinosauropteryx* was announced in October 1996. News articles also appeared in the *New York Times*, *Science* 274: 720-1 and the January 1997 *BBC Wildlife*. A second, larger specimen was reported soon after in early December - this one is apparently 'covered' in small feathers. As of writing, no study has conclusively proved that these theropods are definitely feathered. If they are, we can safely assume that dromaeosaurids - being even more closely related to birds than *Sinosauropteryx* - were clothed in feathers too.

With newly discovered dromaeosaurids being more bird-like, it should not come as a surprise that newly discovered birds are more dromaeosaurid-like. David Krause, Katherine Forster and their colleagues have recently discovered a rich Campanian dinosaur fauna in the Mahajanga Basin, Madagascar. By Campanian times, Madagascar was an island - it separated from Africa late in the Jurassic, but remained linked with India until later on (finally becoming isolate about 88 m.y.b.p). It was home to unusual endemic dinosaurs.

Among these are three new birds. One, *Vorona berivotrensis*, was described in 1996 but is known only from a few leg bones. The other two birds remain presently undescribed, but one of them is known from a virtually complete, albeit headless specimen that has been displayed at several palaeontological conventions. Like dromaeosaurids it has a sickle-claw - an unexpected feature in a bird of this age. Presumably, it is therefore a kind of anachronistic relict that survived in the isolation of Madagascar, and its sickle-claw may be further evidence for the close relationship between dromaeosaurids and birds (it is, however a

possibility that the sickle-claw in this form is convergently evolved: the seriemas (Cariamidae), a relatively recently evolved group clearly not closely related to dromaeosaurids, also have a sickle-claw).

And another new theropod, an Upper Cretaceous dromaeosaurid from Patagonia has hips virtually indistinguishable from the Madagascan bird. Fernando Novas, the palaeontologist who will describe this South American theropod, further reports that it has very bird-like arms and shoulders: it could tightly fold its arms as birds do their wings.

The fact that many of these very bird-like dromaeosaurids appear after the earliest birds has led some workers to suggest that they are actually descendants of early birds like *Archaeopteryx*, rather than late-surviving descendants of bird ancestors.

This former view, first suggested by Greg Paul in 1988, was recently (1995) supported by Mongolian theropod expert Andrzej Elzanowski who showed that the bizarre Upper Cretaceous oviraptorids, another group of bird-like theropods, were actually more like modern birds than *Archaeopteryx*<sup>(3)</sup>.

However, *Archaeopteryx* and other birds have been shown to possess features that other theropods do not.

Also, the idea that bird-like theropods did not debut until after birds is not true: a number of recent discoveries (mostly of little teeth), have now shown that they were around before birds after all.

Overall, disputes are clearly far from over. - as highlighted by another group of newly discovered theropods, the mononykids. More about them next issue.

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## Notes.

1. Both of these are almost certainly not distinct enough to be representative of different taxa, though some niggling features suggest to me that *Jurapteryx* may perhaps be different enough to rank as a different species at least (in which case it would be *Archaeopteryx recurva*).

2. The skeletal remains we associate today with the name *Archaeopteryx* first turned up in 1861 (the London specimen), and though referred by von Meyer to the same taxon as the feather, it is possible that the feather came from another animal - in which case, technically the name *Archaeopteryx* does not belong to the animal that we know today as *Archaeopteryx*.

No doubt, if this turned out to be the case, the London specimen would be strictly defined as the type for *Archaeopteryx*. How pure and simple taxonomy is.

3. Also worthy of note in the context of theropod-bird relations is the discovery of several oviraptorid skeletons from the Upper Cretaceous of Mongolia preserved lying on top of nest-filled eggs.

One such find was described in 1995, and another in 1996. Embryonic remains described in 1994 had already shown that certain fossil remains from the Upper Cretaceous of Mongolia, previously thought to have been laid by the primitive horned dinosaur *Protoceratops*, actually belonged to an oviraptorid. More about oviraptorids in a future issue.

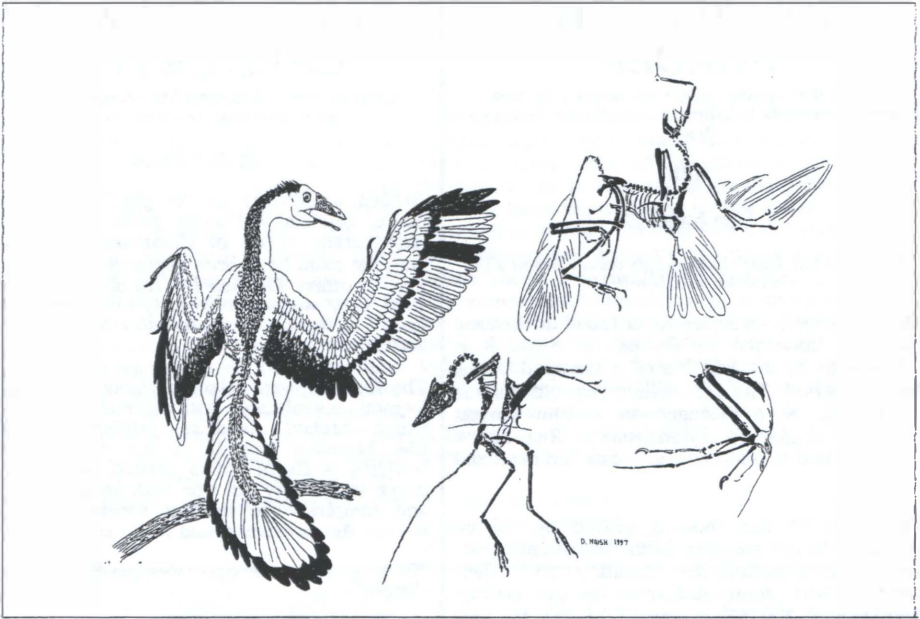


Figure Two: Some of archaeopterygid diversity. The life restoration is of *Archaeopteryx lithographica*: in life about 50cm in length and about 300g in weight. The uppermost skeleton is of the only known skeleton of *Archaeopteryx bavarica* (about 40cms total length). It is characterised by an ossified sternum and especially long legs. The skeleton on the left is the Eichstatt specimen named as *Jurapteryx recurva* by Howgate (1984). It is thirty cm in total length and in life would have weighed about 69g. The illustration to the right represents all that is currently known of the so-called 'Korean Archaeopteryx'. Three fingers and the arm bones are preserved: the relative proportions of them show that this bird is not the same as *Archaeopteryx A. bavarica* after Wellenhofer 1993, Eichstatt and Korean specimens from photographs.



## NORTH OF THE BORDER

(home of the free range haggis and the tastefully boxed souvenir prophylactic in Balmoral Tartan for our visitors from Japan)

with

Tom Anderson

*'He sure as hell doesn't hide his light under a bushel'* (The Undertaker's Review 1922).

The first known carnivore fossil found in Scotland has been unearthed on the Isle of Skye. It is believed to be the vertebra of a theropod of the Jurassic period. The 175 million-year-old bone is reported to have belonged to a 10m upright carnivore similar to Tyrannosaurus Rex and a further search is underway to locate the skull and teeth.

The Black Grouse shooting season opened on August 20th last summer. In the last twenty years their breeding grounds have shrunk by 28%. Their numbers have diminished over the last century from around 500,000 to around 35,000, the vast majority of them living in Scotland whereas once they lived as far south as the heathlands of Surrey. Their much rarer cousin the Capercaillie, has diminished by 64% over the last 25 years and now numbers only about 10,000. Apart from being shot out of the skies, the major hazard to both species are the high, wire deer fences which claim around 10,000 birds a year. These are essential to protect newly planted trees and areas of natural regeneration, but are a 'wall of death' for black grouse and Capercaillie according to the British Trust for Ornithology who claim that they are seriously jeopardising the survival of both species.

The 'glorious twelfth' last year for Red Grouse was most certainly not! Stocks are so low that some shooting estates never opened, and one holding larger stocks stipulated that only flintlock guns were to be used to make it more of a 'challenge'. Another way of redressing the balance would be if every fifth bird had been fed Scentex H with their seed - the resulting conflagration would not only add a piquancy to this dreary pastime but create employment in new fields. Asbestos roofs for Range Rovers, fireproof tweed, and non-combustible spaniels to name but three!

## NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL CRYPTO

Another excerpt from that legendary compilation album of zootymological rock'n'roll mayhem.

by Neil Nixon

Nestled somewhere in the grey area in which dance, ambient and avant garde collide are the idiosyncratic talents of Ultramarine. Generally a duo, the band have been augmented from time to time by others. On their Bel Air album, released in 1995, they allowed a similarly idiosyncratic duo - known as Pooka - to contribute a few guest vocals and lyrics.

The four wayward talents fashioned a handful of hypnotic soundscapes with ethereal voices. one of which - Mutant - stands as a celebration of strange life. Marine's strength is the development of bubbling walls of sound created with the latest dance technology but ripe with acoustic elements and samples. The floating vocals on 'Mutant' overlay the incessant sound with a series of cliches.

*"He's a tall and ugly stranger/but I like the danger".*

Elsewhere, we get a series of potted facts that fire the imagination without spelling out too many specifics. His body is stretching all over the floor, his genitals are ping-pong balls, he smells like the dentist, he's naked etc.

Ultimately it explores the idea of 'Mutant' and leaves open every possibility from the spawn of some Sellafield sado to a primeval throwback mocking evolutionary theory and scientific order as he oozes slime from the tips of his throbbing tentacles.

Then again, maybe they got the inspiration from a picture of Andrew Lloyd-Webber!

Next Time: The Revolutionary Bigfoot Diet.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Pooka are not only a fine band with a name oozing in cryptozoological and fortean symbolism but their last two CDs were the victim of the ritual "sharing out the CD collection" that took place when Alison and I parted company. If anyone comes across CHEAP copies for sale grab 'em for me please. Thanx.

## TIM DINSDALE'S FILM - ANOTHER LOOK

by Richard Carter.

For thirty years now a piece of 16mm Cine film has been acclaimed as the proof for the existence of a large creature living in the depths of Loch Ness. The film was taken by Tim Dinsdale who, after reading about the Loch Ness mystery made a trip to the Loch in the hope of filming the monster.

On the morning of 23rd April 1960, his last day at the Loch, he was making his way back to the Foyers Hotel from Fort Augustus when he saw an object moving across the loch. It then turned left and continued down the loch. He filmed it with his 16mm Bolex camera.

This piece of film became the centre of many debates until in 1966 the Joint Air Reconnaissance Centre (JARIC), a unit of the Royal Air Force carried out their own examination of the film, and then published a report.

This report convinced most people that the film showed an unknown object swimming in the loch. After reading Tim's book and studying the JARIC report it is my contention that the film actually shows a local fishing boat filmed under dull weather conditions. The JARIC report starts by stating that the film was taken from a point three hundred feet above the loch, but if this measurement is wrong and the height was actually only 290 feet then all other measurements would be in error by +10% I have reached this figure because the vertical angle over one mile works out at only 0.1 feet per 100 feet of height which would not make a difference to the size of the object.

Their next observation is that between frame 700 and frame 1700 the speed of the object was 10 m.p.h and it covered 630 feet. Both the speed of the object and the distance covered MUST be incorrect. The camera was set at 24 frames per second. The gap between frame 700 and frame 1700 is 42 seconds of film time. No mention was

made of the fact that the camera was clockwork driven and needed to be rewound every twenty seconds - twice during the duration of the sequence. Each rewinding takes around 12 seconds This adds 24 seconds to the running time which would reduce the speed of the object to six and a half miles per hour - within the speed obtained by local fishing boats.

The report then goes on to state the difficulty of measuring the object whilst it is travelling away from the camera. It also says that between frames 1-384 the object was travelling away from the camera at a speed of ten miles per hour and covered 240 feet.

They then discuss the size of the object describing it as black, triangular in shape with a base of 5.5 feet and a height of 3.7 feet. Because of the angle it was filmed from this would be very near to the true size of the object. This corresponds with the dimensions of a fifteen foot fishing boat with a pilot, seen moving away from the observer.

Just to confuse things further their next calculation is taken from frames 816 to 1440 when the object is travelling parallel to the opposite shore. They give a speed of 7 m.p.h - again a speed obtainable by a local fishing boat, but JARIC say that the speed might be as fast as 10 m.p.h even though the object was travelling across the film, because of the difficulty of estimations at that distance. They were, however, happy with their own calculations made whilst the object was moving away from the camera.

When JARIC start to interpret the film, their first mistake was assuming that the 'marker' boat was filmed under exactly the same weather conditions. It is obvious to anyone viewing the film that it was made on a much brighter day.

The main objection they have against the object being a fishing boat with a non-planing hull is that a fishing boat of fifteen feet could only achieve a speed of between 6.5 and 7 m.p.h. Apart from the one measurement between frames 1 and 384 they give no reason to suppose that the object was travelling any faster than that. Their only argument against the object being a boat with a planing hull is that most speed boats are painted so as to be photo visible at all times. Tim Dinsdale, however, said that the object was reddish-brown at a distance of nearly a mile. The JARIC report ends by trying to estimate the size of the object beneath the water. They don't even suggest the possibility that it could be a floating object!

When Tim Dinsdale arrived at the loch on the evening of the 17th April 1960 he had two cine cameras with him. The 16mm Bolex loaded with black and white film and an 8mm cine camera loaded with colour film. He also had a 35mm still camera loaded with colour film. He never used either.

Whilst driving from Dores to Foyers he saw an object floating in the Loch. He swung his car across the road and prepared to film it. At the last moment he looked at the object through his binoculars and noticed a single leaf blowing from what turned out to be a floating log. If he had not used his binoculars would this too have become a film of 'The Loch Ness Monster'?

On the evening of the 21st April he set up his camera on the hill behind Foyers Bay. Suddenly he saw a disturbance at the mouth of the river. He focussed his 16mm Bolex camera and filmed the object for about 30 seconds. He then decided to go closer and drove down the zig-zag road to the river mouth. He then stated that he had got film of the monster 'in the bag' but little mention is made of this film.

This does suggest that he was 'hyped up', because from that vantage point he could have studied the object through his binoculars, or even used one of his back-up cameras to capture the creature in

colour.

At 9.00 on the morning of the 9th April Tim was cruising towards the Foyers Hotel when he saw an object cruising across the Loch. With his naked eye he could see that it was reddish-brown in colour and through his binoculars he could see a dark mark on its side. When he first saw it the object was sideways-on but it turned away from him although he could still see it from end to end. This would, of course be impossible from this angle at a distance of nearly a mile. As the object started to move he turned his 16mm camera on it and started to film in short bursts like a machine gunner. The object then turned across the loch, then turned left and moved parallel to the far shore. It was at this point that he saw foam breaking the water, which he later likened to paddle strokes. When the film is examined, however, these look more like the bow of a small boat being bumped up and down in the water as it travels at top speed.

He then decided to try and get closer and 'shot off down the zig-zag road like a rocket', leaving a cloud of dust behind him and sounding his horn. He missed his turning and had to circle a group of houses. This he did with his tyres squealing but when he reached the water there was nothing to be seen.

Was it because the monster had returned to its lair? Or was it because a small fishing boat would be very hard to pick out at water level? He later sent out a marker boat for comparison, but it was very much later and the sky was much brighter. He 'clocked' the speed of the marker boat as 7 mph as it returned to its base. On his way home, before he developed the film he stated that he had "caught it by its tail and that no power on earth" would make him let go.

I think that it is quite clear that what has been taken as our greatest piece of evidence for the existence of the Loch Ness Monster might not, after all, be anything more exciting than someone out after his early morning fish. I hope to return to the Loch this year and reproduce this film with both cine and



video cameras. I hope that this will help to solve the mystery once and for all.

As an active Loch Ness investigator I feel that it is important to analyse all that is taken as evidence so that we know what is truth and what is not, and only then can we hope to try and solve the mystery!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Richard Carter and Richard Askew are planning an expedition to Loch Ness in July. They are looking for people to go with them and they can be contacted c/o the editorial address.

On a personal note, I have come under quite a lot of criticism vis-a-vis my attitude towards the Loch Ness Monster. On the Weird CD ROM I state my opinions that it is not possible to explain the sightings at Loch Ness within a purely zoological framework. I stand by this view. When Doc Shiels said, "I don't believe in the Loch Ness Monster even though I've seen the shagger and photographed it," on my last CD ('Invocation of my Daemon Brother') he was stating what I truly believe to be the case.

Whilst it is certain that, as Neil Arnold stated in the 1996 Yearbook, there are some outsized specimens of known species within the loch, and whereas I am also convinced that there are more sightings of seals than is generally credited, the main body of 'Nessie' sightings can only, I feel, be explained within zooform terms of reference. Richard Carter's masterly analysis of the Dinsdale film can only, I feel, support this hypothesis.

The editorial team are aware, however that this is a contentious viewpoint and would welcome letters on the subject from people on both sides of the metaphorical fence. The irony is that whereas, theoretically, at least - if there is a living creature of an unknown species in Loch Ness this COULD be proven if a specimen is secured - if my theory is correct then the case will never be settled to anyone's satisfaction!

## A ZOOLOGIST-FRIENDLY GUIDE TO BOAT HULLS

Planing, in the boating context of the previous article, is similar to road "aqua-planing". Driving a car too fast in wet conditions causes the tyres to lift up from the tarmac and onto the water surface - and grip is immediately lost.

Non-planing boat hulls stay submerged; planing hulls rise to the water surface when the revs are on.

Non-planing hulls are found on many small boats, on barges, log canoes, and on passenger liners.



Fairly flat, or a shallow U shape, such hulls trudge through the water and have a well-defined limit to the speed at which they can be "rammed" through the water ahead. If an over-powerful engine were fitted, the boat would rear up and could even somersault backwards.

Planing hulls, more V-shaped at the base, are found on most speedboats. Such a hull lifts almost horizontally up to the water surface as speed increases.



Skilful driving of a boat with a planing hull requires the pilot to maximise submersion of the propeller(s). If too much thrust is applied, the boat keeps taking off, like a skimmed pebble, with the propeller at the back over-revving every time it emerges into the air. It's a waste of petrol - but a great way of pulling the chicks, though.

# Family, Friends and Out of Place Animals

by Neil Arnold

She opened the door of her flat and was horrified at the sight before her. The 'thing' was like something from a horror film. She stepped back into the doorway and almost shrieked as the wings fluttered and the form wriggled. It was roughly six inches in length and appeared to be similar to a centipede. However, it was certainly unlike anything she had ever seen before. It was a brownish-green colour, had many legs and 'feelers' and appeared to have no fear. It was too big to be a normal British insect. Perhaps it had come from another country, either imported by mistake or an escapee from a private collection. Whatever the case, she could only describe it as 'weird' because it appeared to be too hideous for normality. It was a vile little thing that squirmed and fluttered but it didn't go anywhere - simply staying by the doorstep.

The flat was quite high up and the balcony overlooked a pile of rubble as well as mattresses and other rubbish. This heap of trash was to be the maze in which the creature would escape.

Very reluctantly she struck out at it. She noted that it appeared to be solid and seemed to be unflustered by the contact. Each time she moved towards it, she cringed and flinched, but eventually succeeded in moving it. She pushed the creature over the balcony and it fell between two of the old mattresses and disappeared into the dark cavity.

Just after this experience she rang her father who came over to her flat to try and find the creature. It was not to be found but just by looking at his

daughter's frightened face he could see that this odd encounter had really happened.

This may seem like an excerpt from a horror novel but it is in fact a true case that happened to a woman I know. She is the daughter of a man I visit regularly and although they have had many strange experiences, this one in particular rates highly on their list of natural, though peculiar occurrences.

It seems that the creature was a type of insect, but certainly not one that is at home in the United Kingdom. The woman concerned is certain that this was no dragon-fly, wasp, centipede, spider or beetle. Even if she was mistaken it would appear that the animal was very oversized. The woman was horrified at what she saw and to this day has not changed her story.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There is one other story that I know of within the annals of *fortean* which has several startling parallels to this one. It is taken mostly from *'Mystery Animals of Britain and Ireland'* by Graham McEwan (Robert Hale, London, 1985). Borley Rectory in Suffolk, popularly known as the 'most haunted house in England' burned down, under mysterious circumstances in early 1939. The summer before it was destroyed, a lady was painting in the garden when she had a curious experience:

*"Looking up I saw the queerest object with impelling eyes advancing toward me at about eye level. It seemed to be coming out of a mist. It was accompanied by a wasp on its left..."*

Alarmed, she hit out at the creature, knocking it to the ground. Worried, both that she might have injured it, and that it might attack her, she searched around for it, but it seemed to have disappeared. She later described it as being "quite three inches in length, its body entirely black and composed of sections enabling it to expand and bend at ease.

*"Its eyes were large and the colour of bloomy black grapes"...*

The picture she drew appears to be of a long serpentine insect with huge eyes. It appears to be anatomically correct; the wasp in the same picture is perfect, but like the animal described by Neil Arnold, it does not correspond to any recognisable insect species!

The next case is even more spectacular and is a lot stranger than the last. For some it may even border on the ridiculous! This is probably a paranormal occurrence rather than a known, though out-of-place animal. This account concerns the father of the woman described above and suggests the existence of 'little folk'.

One night the fellow in question was sitting at home talking to two other people, one of whom may have been his daughter, although his memory is a little frail where names and dates are concerned. The two guests were sitting on a couch facing the mantelpiece whilst my friend, whom I shall call Mr X in order to protect his identity was sitting in his favourite armchair facing in the same direction. During the conversation Mr X noticed a movement on the mantelpiece. He stood up to get a better view and was amazed at what he saw. Of course, by this time the two women on the sofa had spotted the thing and were watching it!

Mr X said that the creature was a pale colour and appeared to be lying down. It then stood up in the way that a person would stand a cigarette lighter on its end. He spotted no legs or arms but he did see wings which flickered quickly. He also saw a tiny face, similar to that of a human. As the creature stood up Mr X sought his camera. The creature began to hover away from the mantel and Mr X took a photograph. The creature hovered as it flew and made its way towards the two women on the sofa, but when it got there it simply vanished.

This may seem an unlikely story, but three witnesses enjoying a cup of tea seem to have no reason to make it up!

The photograph came out but the 'creature' is just a white blur against a background of flowery wallpaper.

Mr X said that it was quite tiny, about the size of his thumb, but he laughs whenever people bring up the subject of fairy phenomena. However the creature did appear to have a human face although other characteristics appear more insect like. The fact that it vanished suggests that it was psychical in nature, and it must be said that most people who witnessed such a thing would fear for their sanity! There is no doubt, however, that SOMETHING was seen. A fairy? A ghost? An insect? Who knows? This was no figment of the imagination and I don't think that Mr X and his companions were drinking 'herbal' tea!

The next few anecdotes will seem comparatively normal when considered alongside the first two. I feel, however, that they are worthy additions to the files of Fortean Zoology.

Everyone has heard of the monster of Loch Ness and the following account is one of many encounters with the animal. A friend of mine was privileged enough to travel the waters of the lake because he knew someone who owned a boat. Although he had been camping at the side of the loch for some time he was unlucky and had not seen the animal. His friend who owned the boat was, however, fortunate enough to see something which certainly seems to have been the elusive 'Nessie'.

One night, whilst fishing the waters, he noticed a disturbance - something so great that it could not have been caused by a normal fish. The commotion was caused by a long neck which rose out of the water before crashing back down and disappearing into the depths. Whatever this thing was it terrified the boatman who quickly came ashore. He now thinks that he had a lucky escape because his boat would have turned over quite easily had the creature been any closer.

The legend lives on - despite the hoaxes and the



sceptical viewpoints, which are slowly erased by the continual stream of sightings.

The final two incidents involve a certain man who encountered what may have been Alien Big Cats. Unfortunately he never caught a decent view of the things and tends to attribute them to ghosts rather than to mysterious feline prowlers.

The first encounter occurred in Richmond Park during the early 1950s. He was in the army at the time and his camp was within the park which was a large one inhabited by deer.

One night he was late returning from London and had to climb over the wall or fence surrounding the park. When inside he noticed that the deer were agitated. Suddenly several deer came running past him pursued by what appeared to be a great white hound. This horrific creature had huge teeth but he could see no other distinguishing characteristics.

The weird thing noticed by the alarmed man was that the creature appeared to be a foot above the ground as it ran. To this day he is convinced that whatever it was, it was spectral in nature because of its hideous appearance and huge size. The deer, however saw it as well!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For a similar story concerning spectral hounds 'walking on air' see my article 'Hellhound on my Trail', in issue four of 'The Goblin Universe'.

This spectral beast may have some sort of connection with a famous ghost which apparently haunts Richmond or Kingston Hill.

The ghost is reputedly of a ghostly knight mounted on a white horse. I don't think that the knight caused that disturbance but connections between haunted sites and mysterious animals are common.

The final story took place in the back garden of the man who saw the giant hound in Richmond Park. Here, again, the 'creature' may have been supernatural in origin, but we cannot be sure

because whatever it was - it was simply too fast to be seen.

The man was strolling down his garden path when he was frightened to hear what appeared to be two whip cracks behind him. These sounds were extremely loud but he continued his walk. He was looking for his pet cat but what he heard and felt was certainly no normal creature. Further down the path an invisible 'presence' seemed to hurtle past him and he heard an unearthly scream like that of a big cat.

He described it as a 'banshee wail' and he felt something very large brush past him. Soon after he found his cat which was hiding in a shrub. The cat was wide eyed and would not come out from its shelter.

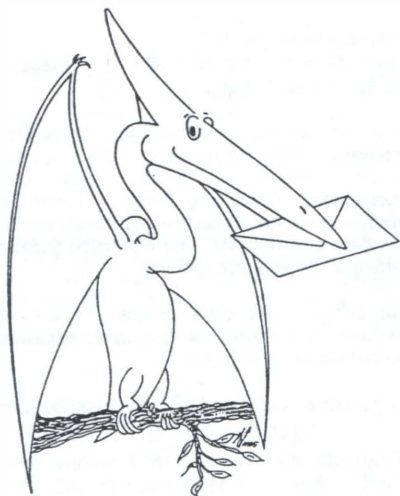
There is a fine line between natural and supernatural. Out-of-place creatures are extraordinary and can't all be explained as normal animals. Some appear to defy nature herself with the ability to vanish or other weird characteristics. More natural creatures such as huge hounds or mystery felids seem to have unnatural connections which make it difficult for observers to determine exactly what they are.

The Loch Ness Monster may be a living dinosaur but then again despite the fact that it appears solid enough, it could be a spectral creature!

I have no doubt that Big Cats roam parts of Britain and that other creatures are metaphorically in 'the wrong part of town', but we must not close our eyes and ignore the more wondrous possibilities simply because many of the alien animal encounters seem a little beyond belief. Maybe some people would rather remain sceptical and cast aspersions upon a person's sanity rather than accepting those sightings with more supernatural aspects.

Not all these encounters are the result of the mind playing tricks, but then again not all hounds 'run on air'.

# LETTERS



have never heard any more news about the discovery. I would be very grateful if you, or any of your readers could tell me if the skeletons have been identified.

Yours sincerely,

Roderick Moore  
Liverpool.

## Riddle of sea cave monsters

SYDNEY: Scuba divers have discovered the remains of creatures unknown to scientists.

Experts are baffled by initial examination of photos of the monsters from an underwater cave off the Fujian island of Matagi in the Pacific. They bear no resemblance to any marine creature I know,' said

diver Kevin Deacon, who has videoed the remains of four creatures amid coral and seaweed. The two largest are 30ft overall with yard-long skulls. 'They look more like a land animal or an amphibian,' he said.

## STEVE MOORE ALSO KNOWS THE SCORE

### Disclaimer:

The Editor welcomes letters on any subject of interest to readers of this magazine.

However, he reserves the right to edit and/or omit letters as appropriate. He would also like

to stress that opinions expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the editor or the magazine staff, and would also like to stress that

whilst every care has been taken not to infringe anybody's copyright or to libel them,

any such offences are the responsibility of the individual author rather than of the editor, the editorial team or The Centre for Fortean Zoology.

Dear Mr Downes,

The article reproduced below was published in the Daily Mail on the 29th May 1990. Since then I

Dear Jon,

Just a quick note to follow up Richard Freeman's letter in *Animals & Men* #10 about the yeti comic strip for *Dr Who Weekly*. The story was called 'Yonder The Yeti', and ran in four two page installments from the 14th May to 5th June 1980. I am afraid, though, that it wasn't drawn by the wonderful Dave Gibbons, but by the equally wonderful David Lloyd. And the script wasn't written by the god-like Alan Moore, either, but by the wizened and unsymmetrical bag-of-spiders who pens this letter. It's not the sort of story that I'd usually go around boasting about, you understand, but I don't see why Alan should take the blame for the wretched thing!

Seeya,

Steve Moore,  
London.

# BOOK REVIEWS

**DIMITRI BAYANOV:** *In the Footsteps of the Russian Snowman.*

*Publisher: Crypto-Logos, Moscow.  
ISBN 5-900229-18-1. 239pp. Pb.*

Bayanov has compiled the first English-language record of sightings and investigations into relict hominids in the lands of the former Soviet Union.

Bayanov presents descriptions of archaeological and cryptozoological expeditions, investigations into the folklore and historical accounts of nomadic snowmen, and examples of discussions within academic circles on the subject.

"...And there, right at my feet, an unknown creature lay asleep," a testimony from a geologist surveying a mountainous area of Tajikistan runs. "It was lying fully stretched out ... about a metre or so in length. The whole body of the animal was covered with shaggy hair. I looked at my Tajik guide ... he pulled me silently by the sleeve and indicated that we must run at once..."

According to the inhabitants of the valleys there were several families of those 'devs' living in the mountains. The creatures were considered to be of the animal kingdom, not supernatural beings, but it was considered to be an evil omen to meet one.

The account goes on to suggest that the 'dev' was a young one and discusses the implications of the food remains seen beside the sleeping entity.

Many of the accounts have been subsequently followed up by Bayanov, in exploration of the question, is the Russian snowman a reality? This book presents a convincing body of evidence to suggest that the answer is a resounding 'YES'!

GI.

**KEITH HOWMAN:** *Pheasants of the World.*

*ISBN 0-88839-280-X  
Publ: Hancock House, USA & Canada, 1993.  
Large format. 184pp.*

A revised and updated edition, this well-laid-out reference book, with many colour illustrations, covers pheasant breeding and captivity management (including housing, dietary needs, stock selection, disease identification and incubation techniques) and a detailed guide to the principle 49 pheasant species.

The Edwards' Pheasant, recently rediscovered in Vietnam, is described (with suitable caution on its extinct status) as follows:

*Lophura edwardsi*. CITES classification: 1.

"Originally discovered in 1895, nothing more was heard of them until 1923 when Dr Delacour went on an expedition to central Annam province in Vietnam. A number of pairs were trapped and a total of 15 birds were successfully shipped to Cleres where four cocks and three hens were retained and successfully bred in 1925. Since then they have been widely distributed, although inbreeding has led to stock degeneration and infertility... Surveys in Vietnam in 1988, 1989 and 1990 found no trace of the species survival and ICBP and World Pheasant Association now consider that there may be none remaining in the wild. The importance of maintaining the genetic viability of the Edwards' Pheasants in captivity is, therefore, vital."

"Minimum aviary size: 150 sq ft (14 m2)  
Status in captivity: vulnerable to inbreeding.  
Full adult plumage: First year  
Egg clutch size: 4-7 eggs  
Incubation period: 22 days  
Feeding habits: nonvegetarian and grain products"

This is an excellent book and one which will make a valuable addition to the library of the zoologist, and the bird-keeper alike. GI.



**Malcolm Penny & Caroline Brett:  
PREDATORS - Great Hunters of the  
Natural World.**

ISBN 0 09 180749 2. Large format.  
Ebury Press, London, 1995. 224pp.

Based upon the Anglia TV series, *Survival*, this book is not so much a reference book as partly expedition anecdote and partly documentary in style. It has no index.

*Predators* looks at lions, snakes, hunting dogs, grizzly bears, killer whales and leopards and cheetahs, within the settings of their natural habitats - or as natural as Man has allowed them to remain.

The authors describe the animal's behaviour and senses, their methods of survival and feeding and behaviour patterns, in customary *Survival* style.

Gaby Roslin (of *The Big Breakfast* fame) accompanied the tv crew and gives her view of things in each section of the book. In the snakes chapter, for instance, she's pictured with a yellow and white boa constrictor around her neck. "It felt heavy ... after 10 minutes my neck and back were killing me..." (I too remember being surprised by the weight of one that was draped around me at the last Zoologica exhibition.)

*Predators* is superbly illustrated - there are very few pages without a colour photograph. It's a visual treat and an entertaining read.

GL

**FORTEAN STUDIES VOLUME 3**

Edited by STEVE MOORE.

John Brown Publ, London, 1996.

This volume is the best and most informative yet (and I am not saying this because it includes my long paper on singing mice.) The highlights for

me are Karl Shuker's erudite paper on giant mystery birds, and Mike Dash's excellent overview of the legend of Spring Heeled Jack.

While the re-evaluation of Bernard Heuvelman's sea serpent theories contains much convincing data, it does seem at the moment that it's 'open season' on him.

There have been a number of articles in various fortune magazines recently which seem overly antagonistic towards him. I think that it is very important that his massive contribution to the science of cryptozoology is not ignored, in what appears to be an over-eager 'rush' to re-evaluate his theories. He has justly been named 'the father of cryptozoology' (he formulated its methodology) and cryptozoology in its current state would not exist without him.

That apart, this book is excellent and comes with my highest seal of recommendation. JD

## GreenScene

*Currently lurking in that administrative hell-hole known as "the pipeline" is GreenScene, the cousin magazine to Animals & Men and the A & M sister magazine Goblin Universe.*

*Edited by Graham Inglis, GreenScene, the magazine of Devon Greenpeace, will mainly focus on worldwide environmental and zoological news and current affairs.*

*GreenScene is looking for correspondents in all parts of the world who can send news items or clippings for GreenScene Newfile. If you would like to participate, then please contact Graham at the GreenScene editorial address:*

*7 Queens Terrace, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4HR.*

*GreenScene supports the aims and objectives of the Greenpeace Devon local support groups and of Greenpeace nationally and internationally.*

Three years after the debut of *Animals & Men* comes our long awaited 'sister' magazine.. The price is the same as *A&M*, and though we say it ourselves it is equally groovy. This is a forteen mag of the sort that you didn't think existed anymore. Why not give us a try? The multiverse is stranger than you think!

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# THE CRYPTO SHOP JANUARY 1997

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## PERIODICAL REVIEWS

We welcome an exchange of periodicals with magazines of mutual interest. Those ones where no new issue has reached us in the last 6 months or so have been given a brief mention only. Because we now exchange with so many magazines we have been forced, much against our fortran methodology, to categorise them.

### CRYPTOZOLOGY AND ZOOMYTHOLOGY

**DRAGON CHRONICLE.** The Dragon's Head Press, PO Box 3369, London SW6 6JN. Jan, May, Sep. A fascinating collection of all things draconian - including ads and services.

**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CRYPTOZOLOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER.** 3773 West 18th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6S 1B3, Canada.

**CREATURE RESEARCH JOURNAL.** P. Johnson, 721 Old Greensburg Pike North Versailles, PA 15137-1111 USA.

**CRYPTOZOLOGIA.** Association Belge d'Etude et de Protection des Animaux Rares, Square des Latins 49/4, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium. The Dec 96 issue includes an article by Francois de Sarre on (if my French translation's accurate) mystery fishes thought to be coelacanths.

**CRYPTOZOLOGY REVIEW.** 137 Atlas Ave, Toronto, Ontario, M6C 3P4, Canada.

**EXOTIC ZOOLOGY.** 3405 Windjammer Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920, USA. A free newsletter from the author of 'Rumours of existence'.

### FRINGE SCIENCE

**SCIENCE FRONTIERS.** Sourcebook Project, PO Box 107, Glen Arm, MD21057. Newsletter of William Corliss' invaluable Sourcebook Project.

**NEXUS 55** Queens Rd, E. Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1BG. An impressive look at the fringes of science

### FORTEAN / EARTH MYSTERIES / FOLKLORE

**TEMS NEWS,** 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2QY. An entertaining collection of odds and sods and generally weird stuff. Recommended.

**HAUNTED SCOTLAND.** Mark Fraser, 35 South Dean Rd, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, KA3 7RD. An enjoyable mag covering weirdness from north of the border. Bimonthly. The Dec issue includes an interview with a tutor of the College of Past Life Healing, a crossword (crossweird??) and tales of visitations and encounters.

**COVER UP.** David Colman, 39 Limefield Cres., Bathgate, West Lothian, Scotland, EH48 1RF. The magazine of the Scottish Unexplained Phenomena Research group. Dec issue mainly has well-presented and interesting UFO sighting reports.

**DELVE, G.** Duplantier, 17 Shetland St. Willowdale, Ontario, M2M 1X5, Canada. Fortean.

**3rd STONE.** PO Box 961, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 2TS. £2.50. Once the magazine of the Gloucester Earth Mysteries Group, 3rd Stone has now moved towards Fortean Times type big-time: A4 glossy format. Let's hope they don't forget their roots too much, as things progress.

The spring 1997 issue stays close to home, geographically speaking, for a look at the standing stones of the Mendip hills (near Bristol) and a stone circle near Avebury in Wiltshire, and a road between Bristol and Clevedon which seems to have had weird or ritualistic things happening along it for centuries. An interesting blend of archaeology and mythology.

**DEAD OF NIGHT.** 156 Bolton Road East, Newferry, Wirral, Merseyside, L62 4RY. £2. An amusing, intelligently put together Fortean magazine. My favourite Fortean journal. The Nov/Dec issue included bits about life on the Martian meteor, UFO reports, lots of weird news stories, and various ghostly accounts.

### ZOOLOGY/NATURAL HISTORY

**MAINLY ABOUT ANIMALS.** 13 Pound Place, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8HH. Veteran zoologist Clinton Keeling edits this wonderful A5 quarterly magazine.

In issue 32, Jan 1997, Darren Naish (taking a well-earned break from writing about whas and dinosaurs for Animals & Men) has an article on the diversity and history of New Zealand's giant flightless birds. There's also a look at rhinos, the lineolated parakeet - and news from the UK's zoological gardens.

**BIPEDIA.** Francois de Sarre, C.E.R.B.I, 6 Avenue George V, 06000 Nice, France. French / English magazine for Initial Bipedalism Theorists.

**MILTON KEYNES HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY.** 15 Esk Way, Blechley, Milton Keynes. Excellent A5 magazine containing handy hints and informative articles.

**ESSEX REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS SOCIETY.** 6 Chestnut Way, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex, CO5 0NX. Ads and events of the regional reptile society.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE ANIMAL KEEPERS.** 8 Yew and Walsley, Iffeld, Crawley, West Sussex. RH11 9QE. Useful publication including a wealth of information about wild animal husbandry. This is an organisation which, especially in the present political climate needs your support.

**THE MANE.** Wild Equid Society, Flat 19, 119 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4RS. Wild horses and their relatives.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**NETWORK NEWS.** P.O. Box 2, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0YY. Anarchism, Earth mysteries, weirdness, and even a little crypto... This is the sort of groovy collection which should be encouraged. Issue 10 is the 'Sex Magic Sacrifice'... Is there an issue 11, yet, folks?

**FOAFTALE NEWS.** Dept of Folklore, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's, Newfoundland, A1B 3X8, CANADA.

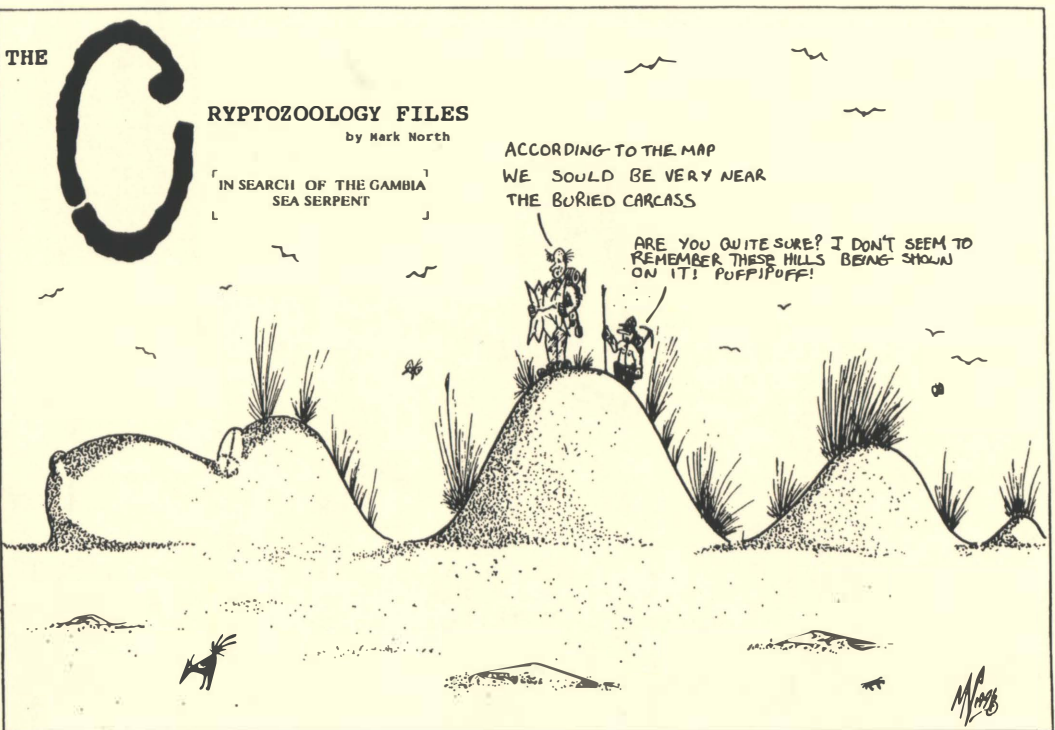
An academic approach to contemporary folklore; a "participation" magazine with input from many many sources, and has good follow-up on issues from one newsletter to the next. Long live the ongoing investigation!

**PENDRAGON.** Smithy House, Newton by Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 6SX. A scholarly and massively entertaining magazine on things Arthurian. Keeps an entertaining balance between literature and history.

**LOBSTER.** 214 Westbourne Avenue, Hull, HU5 3JB. It is nice to see a conspiracy theory magazine with a UK bias which means that it is not overly obsessed with JFK.

Issue 32, Dec 1996, asks, is Libya still the prime suspect in the murder of police officer Yvonne Fletcher. It also looks at CIA and radiation experiments on humans; the connections between the drugs trade and the authorities - in Wales and Mexico; and gives a detailed guide to various web sites covering military secrets, civil liberties, etc.

# Cartoon by Mark North



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"I'm drilling through the Spiritus Sanctus tonight!"